

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 2

MARCH 3, 2004

IT'S YOUR NEWSPAPER

Strikers Return to Work

■ Five-month lockout results in compromise approved by 86 percent of union.

BY KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 70,000 Southern California grocery workers will return to work by Friday, following an 86 percent approval of the new contract for union workers over the week-end.

The United Food and Commercial Workers and grocery companies Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons reconciled with a trade-off — While health benefits for workers will be preserved, the companies will now be able to institute a two-tiered employment system, in which new hires will be eligible for lower wages and fewer benefits. The contract will be effective for three years.

"Honestly, it's not a whole lot different from what [the grocers] proposed initially," said Ralphs employee and Valley College student Christina Parker, "but there are some important improvements, like the healthcare."

During the 20-week period of the strike, the three companies suffered losses in excess of \$1.5 billion collectively and

Please see *Strike* page 6

Futures Up in Smoke

■ One conviction can hold back federal aid for up to a year.

BY CHELSEA BANKS
STAFF WRITER

Students convicted of even misdemeanor drug possession or sale may not be eligible for federal aid.

When students seek financial aid, one of the first things they do is fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

More than 12 million students completed a FAFSA in 2002-2003. More than 93,000 of those students marked that they had at least one drug conviction. Approximately 22,000 of that group subsequently failed to complete a drug worksheet, automatically disqualifying them from eligibility, according to Jane Glickman of the Department of Education Office of Public Affairs.

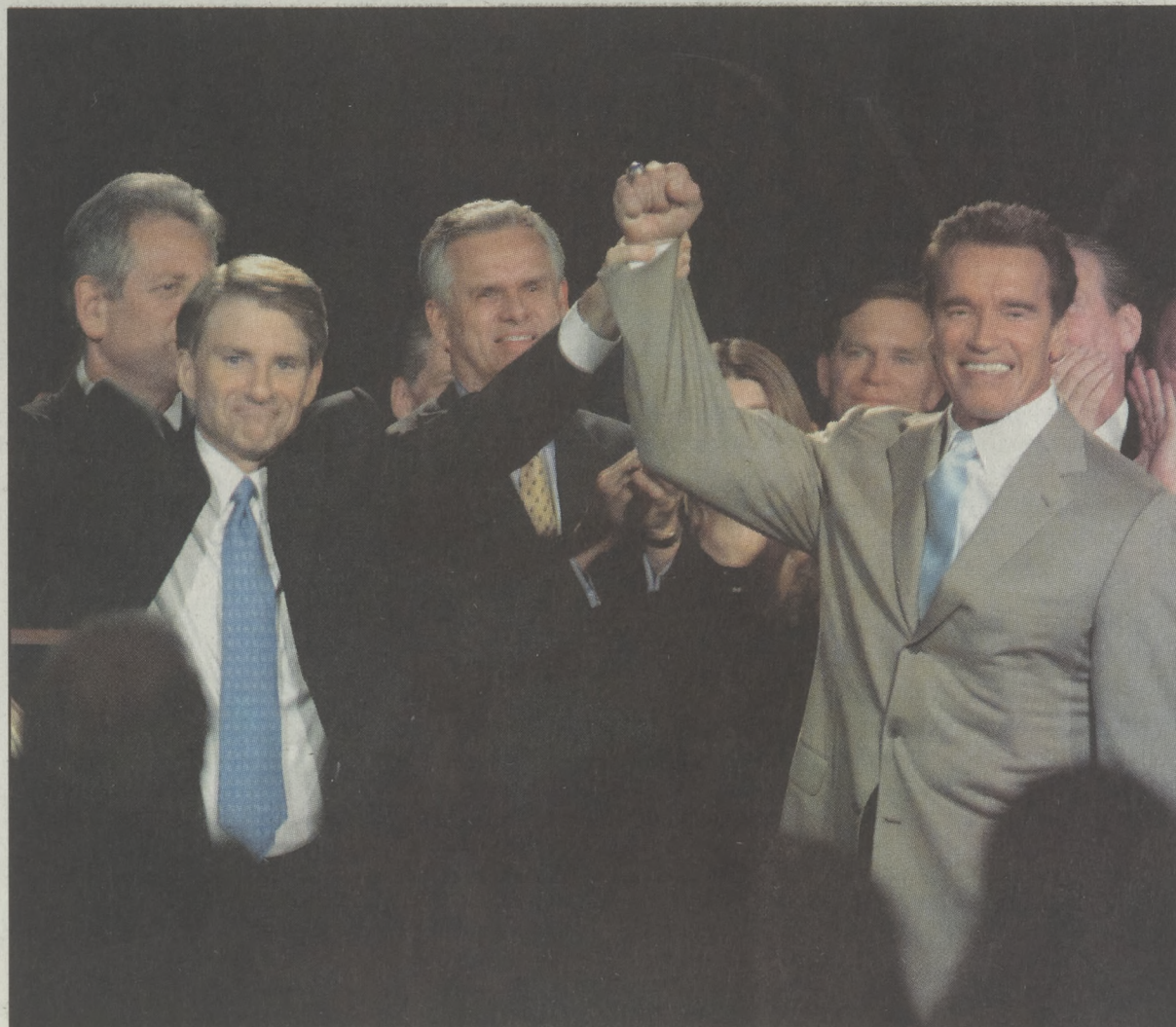
Those who completed drug worksheets may have found themselves eligible for federal aid. The more than 25,000 applicants who did fill out the drug worksheet were still turned down for federal aid as a result of their drug convictions, whether felony or misdemeanor.

The program has a three-strikes policy: those who have

Please see *Restrictions* page 6

Props 57, 58 Pass; Kerry Rolls

■ Gov. Schwarzenegger logs a major political victory, while the statewide school bond struggles and the local measure passes.



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

THE TWO-TERMINATOR? - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (right, with State Controller Steve Westly, co-chairman of the deficit bond election campaign) has seen his political clout significantly increase with the passage of the twin propositions that are central to his economic plan.

BY JACQUI BROWN,
TIFFANY FARMASIS AND
MICHAEL ORDOÑA
STAFF WRITERS

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger flexed his political muscles last night by powering the passage of the two ballot measures he had touted as key to his economic plans for the state.

"I love it when the people speak, it's wonderful," a jubilant Schwarzenegger told the crowd at the Fairmont Hotel in Santa Monica, "You are the greatest power lifters in the world and I thank you."

Both measures had to pass or neither would take effect, and behind strong bipartisan support and tireless campaigning by the governor, they did so by wide margins. Proposition 57, which authorizes a \$15 billion bond to cover shortfalls, was projected to win in televised reports with a more-than-20 percent lead at press time. Proposition 58, which legislates balanced budgets, was also declared a winner with a lead of more than 30 percent.

As it became clear that the linked measures would be ratified, Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn said, "I think the voters realize this is the kind of strong medicine the state needs ... this is one of those rare occasions where Democrats and Republicans agree."

However, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, a leading Democrat, said that Proposition 57 meant borrowing without raising taxes on top earners, and that would mean in "big cuts to [our schools and services] ... Governor Reagan asked the wealthiest 2 percent to pay more, and that's only fair."

Meanwhile, Prop 56, which would have lowered the vote necessary for the legislature to raise taxes from a two-thirds majority to 55 percent, was rejected.

At press time, Proposition 55 (for a \$12.3 billion school bond) was locked in a tight battle, trailing by only two points. However, Measure R, pertaining only to Los Angeles schools, was projected to win comfortably.

Although the budget facilitated by the passage of Propositions 57 and 58 increases funding to community colleges,

it raises tuition across the board.

"They increased fees, but not enough that they would totally decimate the system — just enough to shove tens of thousands of people out of it," said Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-N. Hollywood) said. "The only prayer of reversing tuition [increases] is if Prop 56 passes. [Propositions] 57 and 58 are just a down payment ... getting rid of the two-thirds requirement is the key. That's what keeps us from getting a real budget."

In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) rolled through Super Tuesday with nine convincing wins in 10 states, including California. His only loss came in former rival Howard Dean's home state of Vermont, where Dean loyalists supported their ex-governor despite the fact that he dropped out of the running on Feb. 18.

Kerry received a phone call of congratulations from President Bush before the polls closed in California. Early returns had Kerry clobbering Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) here by a count of 68 percent to 18 percent.

Kerry's near-sweep apparently ended the hopes of Edwards, his only remaining rival with more than 20 delegates. Edwards is expected to announce his withdrawal from the race today.

Edwards' followers must now wait to see if their candidate will be eventually named to the vice presidential slot on Kerry's ticket, as is widely speculated.

However, voter apathy was evident at Valley College.

"The primaries aren't that important," said music history major Emi Zavalaga, "Most people don't really pay attention to them anyway."

"I heard if you vote, you would have more of a chance of doing jury duty," student Luther Bardakjian said.

Not all students thought that voting was pointless. Political science major H. Petreshkin said, "In 20 years, we'll be responsible for running the government. If we don't start acting now, we'll have to work with all the limitations the older generation set on us."

Less Pain for Community Colleges in New Budget?

■ Passage of Props 57 and 58 will impact higher education spending.

BY KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget includes an 8 percent increase for California community colleges, welcomed news following the state budget crisis and its effect on the state's largest post-secondary education institution.

all going to have to go back to the drawing board," Valley President Tyree Wieder said before the election.

The budget proposal's increase in funding is largely from two sources, increased student fee revenue and a greater appropriation of Proposition 98 funds. In recent years, budget shortfalls have compelled state offi-

month.

The governor's budget will also grant California's community colleges their first year without mid-year cuts in two years. Last year's cuts exceeded \$3 million and forced colleges to diminish student services, cut back on faculty and supplies and cancel classes and intersessions.

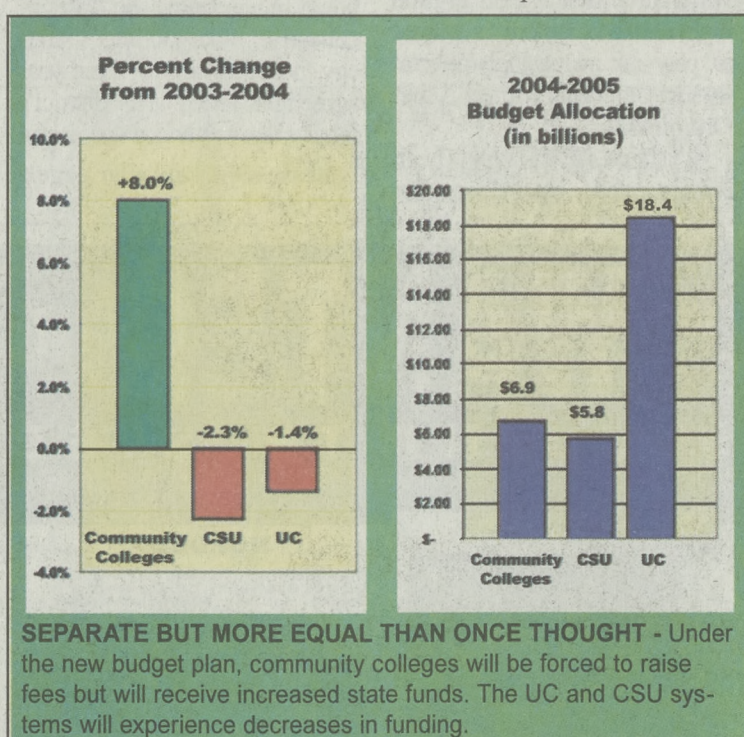
Even though there are no mid-year cuts, students still face another fee increase in the fall. The fees will rise to \$26 per unit and \$50 per unit for bachelor's degree-holders.

The proposal calls for a 7 percent cut to state universities, which have responded by planning a five percent cut in admissions for the 2004-2005 year. In accordance with this plan, CSUs will not admit lower-division transfer students with less than 60 units and upper-division transfer students who haven't completed the four basic general education requirements: Oral communication, written communication, critical thinking and mathematics.

Freshman applicants will also be encouraged to complete lower-division coursework at a community college campus. UC schools have a similar plan.

"We will talk to the governor to see if [the fee increases] can be modified to offset the budget's impact," said Steve Olsen, vice chancellor at UCLA. Community college officials expect an increased

Please see *Budget* page 6



The \$5.1 million budget, increased 4.2 percent from the 2003-2004 year, which is generally accepted state-wide, depends entirely on the \$15 billion bond measure, Proposition 57. The measure passed Tuesday with overwhelming support.

"If the governor's bond measure doesn't pass we're

cials to suspend allocation of Proposition 98 funds, which will account for \$4.7 billion, two-thirds of the 2004-2005 community college budget.

"I think we are very lucky," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services at a meeting with Valley College's Associated Student Union last



GABY ALONSO / VALLEY STAR

RALLY - Jennifer Hodges chants "Hey! Ho! What do you know, Bush and Cheney gotta go" in support of Senator John Kerry, in Los Angeles.

22 GALLERY PG. 10
A VALLEY STAR
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
STANDOUT SYRETA WILLIAMS
WRAPS UP MONARCH CAREER

VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
LIFE SPRINGS FROM A RIB
THE STAR REVIEWS A
LOCAL BBQ PIT

SPORTS PG. 8
DONE
LADY MONARCHS SHOWN
THE DOOR IN THE FIRST
ROUND OF THE PLAYOFFS

NEWS PG. 2
NEUROBIOLOGY AND M&M'S
AN INTERVIEW WITH
NOTED NEUROBIOLOGIST
ROBERT SAPOLSKY

News Reel

SUICIDE BOMBINGS IN IRAQ KILL 143:

At least 430 people were wounded and 143 were killed when four suicide bombers in Baghdad, Karbala & Basra attacked Muslim Shrines, Tuesday.

At least a dozen bombers planned to attack in Iraq, but authorities were able to capture most of them before their bombs detonated.

The bombs went off at 10 a.m., timed in accordance with celebrations on the 10th day of the Shiite mourning festival Ashoura.

MAYOR UNDER GUARD:

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has been placed under 24-hour armed protection as a result of death threats he has received over his decision to allow gay marriages to be performed in the city.

Campus Eye

CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER OPEN HOUSE:

The Career/Transfer Center and The LAVC/Woodbury Connections Center are having an open house Thursday, March 4, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for students to familiarize themselves with LAVC's career and transfer services.

The open house is being held in the Center's newly remodeled offices in the Administration Building, Rooms 124 - 126.

WRITING CENTER WORKSHOP ON PARAGRAPHING:

Wednesday, March 3, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Humanities 100 & 102

TRANSFER TO UC WORKSHOP:

Thursday, March 4, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

SPACE AND WORK COMMITTEE:

Thursday, March 4, 1 p.m., PCR

WRITING CENTER WORKSHOP ON MLA FORMAT:

Thursday, March 4, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., Humanities 100 & 102

UCLA BUDDY DAY:

Friday, March 5 (for more information see bottom).

UCLA REPRESENTATIVE:

Monday, March 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

CAL STATE LA REPRESENTATIVE:

Monday, March 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

CAL STATE CHANNEL ISLANDS:

Monday, March 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

CAREER INVENTORY WORKSHOP:

Monday, March 8, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

FREE BUS TRIP TO MOUNT ST. MARY'S:

Tuesday, March 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Must register in advance, (for more information see bottom).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:

Tuesday, March 9, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

WRITING CENTER WORKSHOP ON PUNCTUATION:

Tuesday, March 9, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., Humanities 100 & 102

*Contact: Barabara Schneider (818) 947-2646, or visit Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., Room 126

Valley People

From the Monarchs to the Hot Shots

■ A fire technology student gets set for the real world.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jose Rodriguez is the guy most mothers wish their daughters would bring home.

The handsome 22-year-old Valley College student stands 6 feet tall, is soft-spoken, affable and extremely fit. Among his favorite subjects are journalism and history. And he's a fireman.

"I just know that I want to do it," he says. "It's been a lifelong dream for me."

Rodriguez is one of the success stories of Valley's largely unheralded fire technology program, which meets Fridays through Sundays, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., for about a month and a half. The program includes classroom education and hands-on training, including 8-to-10 hour hikes with chainsaws, hand tools and gear bags - the equipment can reach up to 65-80 pounds. At Valley, students can become paid, professional firefighters and be sent with the Monarch crew all over the country.

"We've been in Montana, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, pretty much all over the western states,"

Rodriguez said. "I did two seasons with the Monarchs, and each season we did probably between 12-15 [wildland] fires."

As a Type II crew, the Monarchs are supposed to be mostly limited to cleanup duties in the wake of blazes. Since they have the same training as Type I (hot shot) crews, however, they sometimes end up actually fighting fires.

"Mt. Baldy was my first fire," said Rodriguez. "It was exhausting. Your adrenaline is running 110 percent, so I burned out in four hours - and we had a 16-hour shift. You're out there hiking, cutting line with chainsaws and hand tools. After the fourth hour when you've burned out ... I was really discouraged at the time."

Dave Burke, a Burbank firefighter who runs the program at Valley, is glad that Rodriguez stuck it out.

"Jose is a great guy," said Burke. "He definitely dedicated himself in class. In field drills, too, he stood out. He continued to better himself. He went above and beyond, continuing to get into better shape, seeking more



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

STUDENT FIREFIGHTER - Jose Rodriguez of Valley's fire technology program has fought fires from Arizona to Oregon. The eight-week program allows students hands-on training in addition to class instruction.

knowledge of the service.

"One way we measure success is if people take what they learn here and go out and get jobs. [By that measure, too] Jose is a success."

Indeed, Rodriguez has moved on to a Type I crew, the Bear Divide Hot Shots in Santa Clarita. He is one of those lucky people who has always known what he wants to do. He can

trace the genesis of his interest in firefighting to an incident when he was 5.

"The story is, we were getting ready for school one day and my mom had started the car to let it warm up," he said. "She started doing something [else], and then the car caught on fire in the garage. Within like, two minutes [firemen] were on top of it, breaking the thing apart.

I remember being so scared, but excited at the same time. 'Man, that's pretty cool. I'd like to do something like that.'"

Rodriguez was born in Nicaragua and came to the Valley when he was 5 with his mother, father and younger brother and sister.

"[Nicaragua is] a country with a lot of turmoil - there's please see Rodriguez page 6

THE VALLEY STAR INTERVIEW

Sapolsky: Neurobiology, Violence and M&M's

■ Noted scientist continues "Provocative Speaker" series at Valley Cities Jewish Community Center.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Are human beings genetically predisposed to violence? Award-winning neuroendocrinologist and writer Robert Sapolsky doesn't think so, and has hard research to prove it.

"Anyone who comes out of studying the subject deciding that there is biological determinism of aggression," he said, "has a hidden agenda."

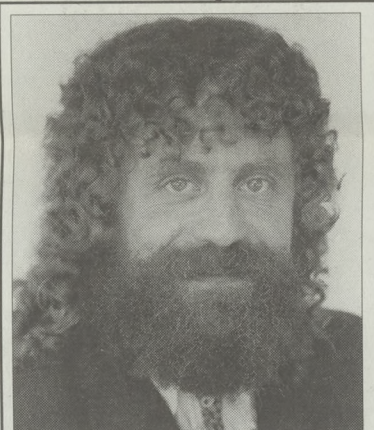
Sapolsky discussed the relationship between biology, environment and violence last week as the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center's fourth in a series of "Five Provocative Speakers." Previous speakers in the series were political commentator Arianna Huffington, U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter and Los Angeles Times Book Review Editor Steve Wasserman. The series concludes in March with nationally-syndicated columnist Robert Scheer.

Sapolsky has published four books, including the highly-regarded "Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers" and "A Primate's Memoir" and has been called "one of the best scientist-writers of our time" by Dr. Oliver Sacks. Among other things, he is a professor of biology and neurology at Stanford University and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow. He may be best known for his pioneering work in the field of stress-related diseases, in which he helped to establish the link between stressful environments and physical illness.

"People don't die of 'easy diseases' anymore, that are cured by a vaccine or stopped by clean water," he said. "We die of diseases where you slowly accumulate damage over 60, 70 years. These are all diseases of lifestyle, all related to stress. Stress has nothing to do with whether you survive anthrax, but it has everything to do with heart disease, diabetes and other leading killers."

Dr. Sapolsky sat down with The Valley Star's Michael Ordoña to discuss stress and theories of violence among primates (including humans) in shortly before his VCJC speaking engagement.

The Valley Star: Let's talk



COURTESY SAPOLSKY LABORATORY

HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT YOUR BRAIN THAN YOU DO - Noted neurobiologist Robert Sapolsky.

about some of your previous work, since some of our readers may not know you. You've done a lot of research into stress-related illnesses. Today, that's a widely-accepted notion - that how you feel can have real effects on your health - but it wasn't always. What caused the change in perception?

Robert Sapolsky: We [now] know to a remarkable extent the exact cellular, molecular events by which stress changes how well your immune system protects you, whether cholesterol is gumming up your bloodstream or not ... So this is no longer an alternative explanation of disease, it's hard-nosed 21st-century science.

VS: For people who might not know that they have stress-related illnesses, what are some of the symptoms?

RS: The most common are high blood pressure, digestive problems - usually in the form of Irritable Bowel Syndrome, where you have a lot of gas or the runs - trouble sleeping, sexual dysfunction, big change in appetite.

VS: What can humans do about reducing stress-related illness, apart from taking it easy?

RS: We don't get stressed in the way that "normal" mammals do, which is to say that somebody is intent on preying on you and you've got 30 seconds to get out of there. Instead [we have to deal with] mortgages and jobs, things that are purely psychological. If you can invent these stressors in a psychological state, you have a much better chance of getting rid of them than if you are stressed because lions are chasing you please see Sapolsky page 6

New Chancellor on the Job at LACCD

■ Chancellor Drummond steps down and former senior vice chancellor Landsberger steps up.

BY JACQUI BROWN

STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Community College District underwent a changing of the guard in January when Chancellor Thomas Nussbaum announced his retirement after serving the district for seven years.

Dr. Marshall "Mark" Drummond, who has served as the LACCD Chancellor since 1999, was subsequently appointed by the Board of Governors to serve as the new Chancellor of California Community Colleges, according to a press release from the Board of Trustees.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the California Community Colleges at a time when enrollment is at an all-time high and the system is poised to play an increasingly pivotal role in California's future," said Drummond.

"The LACCD has been reinvigorated by Chancellor

Drummond and we will sorely miss him," said Mona Field, president of the LACCD board. "His vision and leadership will now benefit community college students throughout the state, and we are proud of his appointment to be our next State Chancellor."

The former senior vice chancellor, Dr. Peter J. Landsberger will, for the next 18 months, serve as the interim chancellor for the LACCD. Former president of Los Angeles Pierce College, Darroch "Rocky" Young will serve as interim senior vice chancellor.

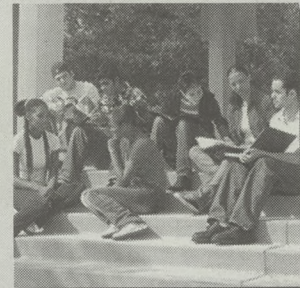
Since 1999, Landsberger has worked to overhaul the district's administrative system, modernize the personnel, payroll and financial software, assist the board in redefining the district's collective bargaining strategy, negotiate a new three-year agreement with the district's faculty and supervise successful please see Chancellor page 6

WANTED STUDENT TRUSTEE

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NEEDED

The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District is looking for a bright, motivated, responsible and articulate community college student to be a Student Board Member. The term of office is a year starting June 1st and ending on May 31st of the following year. To be eligible the student must have previously completed at least 12 units at a community college and be currently enrolled in 6 units.



DUTIES & POWERS

The Student Trustee will be responsible for attending and participating in board meetings, act as a member of the board unit, prepare for meetings by studying the issues and asking questions. As the Student Trustee you will be representing your fellow students and need to present any student issues or concerns to the board. You may also attend conferences to further your learning and contribute to the board as well as help represent the college at community events and advocate for the college at state and national legislatures.



APPLY NOW!

Applications are available in the ASU Office in Campus Center Room 102 and must be returned no later than Monday, March 15, 2004.



For more information, call: (818) 947-2708

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OPINION

3

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **SHOULD GAY MARRIAGE BE LEGAL?**

■ **Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at www.lavalleystar.com**

Equality Is Not Exclusive

BY KRISTA CARLSON
CO-DESIGN EDITOR

Gay Marriage: It's immoral. A vulgar sin. Unforgivable by God.

Therefore, it should oppress the rights of millions. Sorry, but I don't think so.

A constitutional amendment banning gay marriage would be one of the greatest hypocrisies in the history of the United States.

How are all men equal if only some of them are allowed to take on the binding commitment of marriage and have that contract legally and socially recognized?

They just plain aren't.

By allowing same-sex marriages, Massachusetts' judges and the San Francisco mayor have demonstrated that they comprehend what equality actually is, just as when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that racial segregation of public schools was unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

It took a bit of time (and force) for many to accept that shift in social standards, but it came about because it was an acknowledgement of the fundamental right to equality of minority groups.

Today U.S. citizens are divided in the same way over same-sex marriage.

Moral zealots argue dogmatically that "marriage is between a man and a woman" — but why?

If two people want to take on the special obligations to be united for life and committed to one another, no law should be able to prevent that.

A couple that can live

together, share finances and be responsible to one another (everything but be "married") should not suffer from discrimination for their life choices.

In the 1960's, blacks and whites could not even intermarry in some states.

No substantial case for such prohibition existed then, nor does it for the prohibition of same-sex marriages today.

A ban on gay marriage would set the country on a crash-course of regression.

The possibility of a constitutional ban spans more than sexuality.

Many pagan religions recognize the soul as a genderless entity; it is the body that is anatomically sexualized.

If we take this into consideration, banning gay marriage becomes a form of religious oppression, and a further propagation of Judeo-Christian beliefs.

And we all remember the

guarantee for religious freedom, right? OK, then give them their freedom.

The division on this issue is as sharp as that on abortion. Legal challenges of the gay marriages being conducted now are bound to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

When they do, justices will have to remember when they ruled against anti-sodomy laws in *Lawrence v. Texas*, and rationalized that "the Court's obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate its own moral code."

They will have to realize the danger of opening the road for religious fanatics to fight for prayer in school, government funding for churches and overt displays of religion in public places.

They will have to protect the sanctity of our liberties and the principles of justice and freedom as guaranteed to all Americans.

The Slippery Slope of Gay Marriage

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Marriage is far from a civil union.

That's what recent divorce trends reflect. In fact, according to the United States Census Bureau, the divorce rate has quadrupled from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996. Their research also indicates that 40 percent to 50 percent of new marriages will end in divorce if these trends continue. Yet despite these statistics, thousands of people are flocking to San Francisco in light of the legalization of gay marriages.

Currently, California law stops short of civil unions, but allows gay couples to form domestic partnerships that provide several, although not all, the benefits received by married couples.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom took the law into his own hands by directing offi-

cials to grant marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples. He openly defied the 2000 state referendum that defines marriage solely as a union between a man and a woman.

He called his actions civil disobedience; I call them breaking the law.

Newsom could have filed a lawsuit against the state challenging the law instead of ignoring it. He chose not to and the last I checked, it wasn't OK for elected officials to break the very laws they have been sworn to uphold.

By redefining marriage on the basis of civil rights we are posing a threat to monogamy. Many conservatives argue that there is a correlation between legalizing gay marriage and polygamy. Gay leftist columnist Richard Goldstein said of polygamy and gay rights, "Our fates are entwined in fundamental ways."

Logically, if you support

the right to gay marriage, a relationship between two consenting adults, then you shouldn't be opposed to the marital relationship of three, maybe four or more consenting adults.

It's also been argued that this risk to monogamy endangers the fabric of the nation. I call that common sense. Both tradition and pragmatic data show that children need mothers and fathers. According to research from Child Trends, family structure does matter to children; it is especially helpful when a family is headed by two biological parents in a stable marriage. There are no substitutes for what a mother and father give to a child. Each is different, but equally important.

Research from Child Trends also indicates that children in single-parent households, born to unmarried mothers or in stepfamilies face higher risks of poor outcomes.

Well duh!

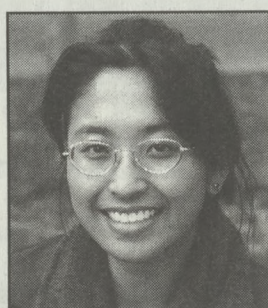
Society has not only the right, but the obligation to uphold the traditional institution of marriage and to give it privileges other unions don't have. I don't call that discrimination, I think it's acknowledging a higher good.

Consider the damage being caused by San Francisco's mayor; there is a difference between "civil disobedience" and pure apathy for state law. Divorce rates show that our society isn't doing enough to support traditional marriages. To allow gay marriage is to undermine respect not only for the law but for the family unit, both of which should be held in the highest regards.

Campus View

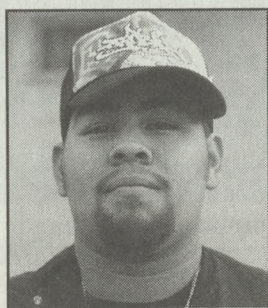
PHOTOS BY DESIREE DELGADO

How do you feel about gay marriage?



"I don't want to object to them, every one has a right to feel happy. I see it as harmless."

- Jeremy Gapasin



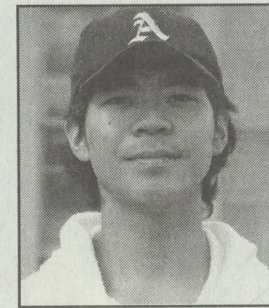
"Whatever they want to do, it's their personal lives. We shouldn't govern [their personal lives]."

- Guillermo Martinez



"I don't have a problem with it at all. I'm totally for it."

- Brenda Miranda



"It's hard to say. I'm divided, as a Christian I would vote against it, but people have freedom to choose what lifestyle they want to live."

- Joshua Okumura

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS Food For Thought?

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

For those of you who feel your voice is not heard at election time, a woman in Newmarket, England found a solution: register your pets to vote.

"Jack Woofles," also known as Brenda Gould's dog, was registered to vote for last year's election. Also registered were "Henry and Sophie Bull," Gould's cattle.

This year Gould indicated that her property was split in two, and that two people lived on the other side. These two "people" turned out to be cows, according to the East Cambridgeshire District council.

Think of the possibilities. Your incumbent president is the frontrunner, much to your dismay. Moove your cows to the booth and make their voices heard. Udderly contemptible? Cattle have rights too. Why not milk them for all they're worth? Anyone who watches "South Park" knows that cows are the smartest life forms on this planet, and that's no bull. Why do you think extraterrestrials pick on them?

Meanwhile, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is continuing its campaign for animal rights by petitioning a small town to shun its history by adopting a new name.

PETA asked town council members of Slaughterville, Oklahoma (named for James Slaughter, a grocery store entrepreneur) to consider changing their town's name to Veggieville, contending that the current name "conjures up images of the vio-

lent and bloody deaths of terrified chickens, pigs and cows." Or, as Ms. Gould calls them, "voters."

To sweeten the deal, PETA promised to deliver \$20,000 worth of veggie burgers to the local school district to "celebrate the change."

In the most blatant attempt at gerrymandering this side of

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

Rule," the (two-legged) voters ground the proposition like so much chuck.

Future proposed name changes could be from Porkey, Pennsylvania to Potatoey, Pennsylvania — can't have that talking pig, Babe, misrepresented.

Then there's Beaver Head,

the premiere of Mel Gibson's controversial movie "Passion of the Christ" as an animal-rights vehicle.

Outside movie theaters in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Seattle, Stamford, Conn. and Lynchburg, Va., PETA representatives staged short dramas depicting Christ promoting vegetarianism, or vegan diets.

"Anyone who sends cows to slaughter mocks God," said Bruce Friedrich, vegan campaign director for PETA and devout Roman Catholic. "Our goal is to point out to people, especially people who are trying to lead more merciful and compassionate lives that we have an opportunity to live our faith every time we sit down to eat."

Louis Giovino, director of communications for the New York City-based Catholic League, disagreed.

"Nobody has succeeded in making PETA look more ridiculous than PETA ... We're actually grateful for this because this is another example of ... the ridiculous stunts that they pull in the name of vegetarianism. So now it's even more so for people to see that they're off their rocker," he said.

At this rate, our country is headed for some major change. In the near future we can look forward to cows casting the majority vote, cattle having more rights than the average citizen and a new brand of corruption — veggie-barrel politics. Tofu mignon, anyone?

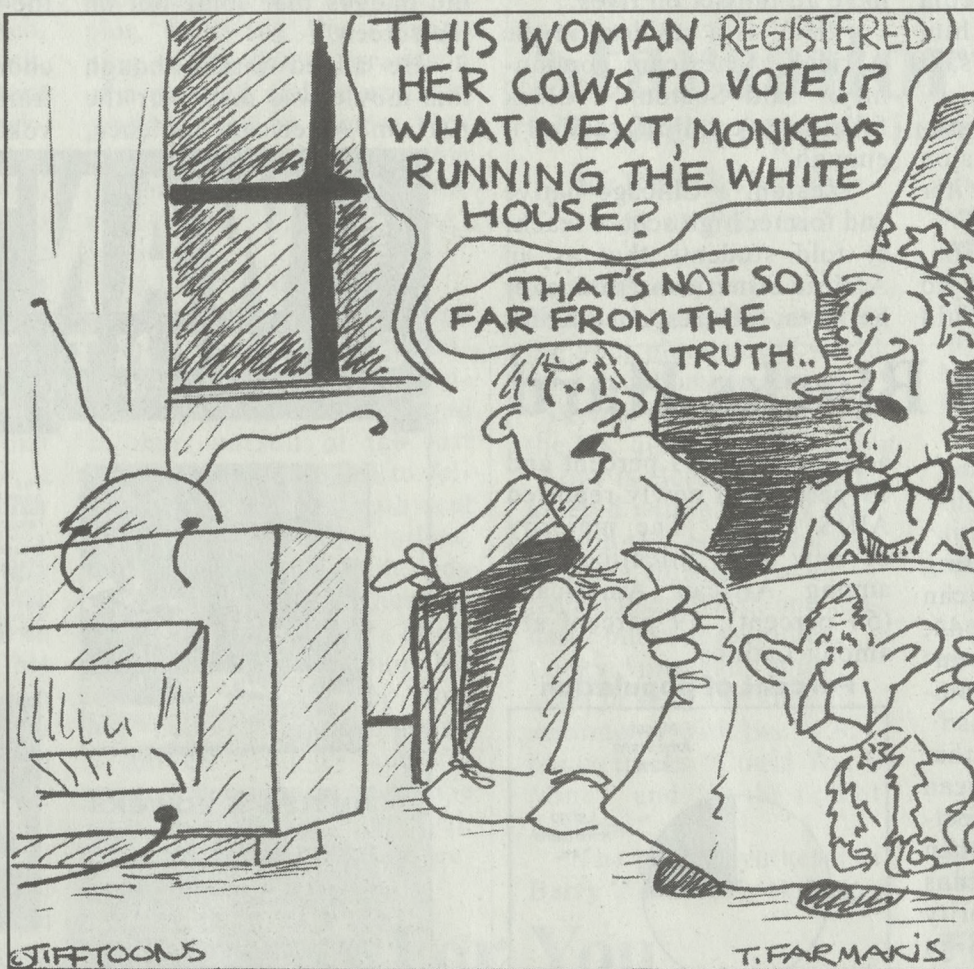


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

Texas, PETA gave away free veggie burgers before the proposition was presented to council members Feb. 17. However, Slaughterville residents showed their disdain for PETA's efforts by giving out free hot dogs while displaying signs that read "Beef, it's what's for dinner." Giving new meaning to the "Slaughter

Idaho? Decapitated beavers — hmm, how about Lettuce Head, Idaho? And finally, Looneyville, Texas — the mentally-ill population has spoken — they want the name changed to We'reNotCrazy, Texas.

In yet another desperate attempt to urge meat eaters to change their diets, PETA used

The Unspeakable, the Unthinkable and the Underdog Rules

■ **The view from the crowd at the Democratic presidential debate.**

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Hordes of interested donkey fans descended upon USC's Broad Auditorium Thursday night to hear another exercise in genteel self-promotion called the Democratic Presidential Debate. The presumptive nominee, John Kerry of Massachusetts, and his likely-running-mate-but-still-officially-his-rival, John Edwards of North Carolina, were scheduled to politely disagree but more forcefully unite in their criticism of President Bush.

Oh yes, and two other guys would be included as well, one of them a preacher or something from New York City and the other, a former Cincinnati talk show host (but not Jerry Springer).

Some smart person once called politics "the art of the possible." More and more, however, it seems to be the art of making the easy seem difficult and promising to deliver the utterly impossible. Most of all, though, races have lately been defined by the unspeakable.

As one party has greedily gripped the throbbing posts of morality and patriotism, it has become unacceptable to discuss issues in detail for fear of being struck by a swinging flag. Doublespeak and equivocation have always been part of seeking office, but these donkeys in disarray have made themselves as tiny and unobtrusive as they can, lest less-than-rosy words be heard from their mouths.

They've found that they

can play it safe — not play to win, but rather like former 49er coach Steve Mariucci, play not to lose — by slatternly splaying themselves before all special interests, shamefully pandering for the middle. It didn't work for them in 2000, but they seem to think that, as Nader voters found out (curse their hemp-wearing souls), it's the middle of the road or it's the highway to hell. Voting one's conscience, even when faced with a ticket as odious as one containing GOP Joe Lieberman as vice president as the "safe" choice, has become unthinkable.

It was in this unenviable miasma that the curious found themselves on Thursday night as they waited to enter the auditorium.

A small but energetic group of Kerry supporters waved signs and chanted campaign slogans for the benefit of a handful of photographers outside the event. All they lacked was a mascot. The collegiate enthusiasm of the band of 30 proved somewhat less-than-infectious, however, as they failed to turn the heads of passersby.

Joining them on the lawn was a drum-beating fellowship of Kucinich backers who marched by and parked beside them, drowning them out. There were only seven of them, but they definitely had the edge in rhythmic skills. This display was apropos to its hero, who even his detractors agree marches to his own drummer.

Whether the fervor of these please see *Unthinkable* page 7

WEDNESDAY
TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3
Elvis Costello & Steve Nieve
Royce Hall-UCLA
8:00 p.m.
\$55.50-75.50
EDITOR'S PICK
Last year, Elvis Costello released the most personal album of his distinguished and chameleonic career, "North." Costello's appearance at Royce Hall continues his run as Artist-in-Residence at UCLA and figures to feature songs from this rich and textured collection.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4
Rufus Wainwright
Royce Hall-UCLA
8:00 p.m.
\$26.50
Faculty Recital
Kate Lewis on the guitar and Tricia Lewis on the flute.
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.

A.S.U. Inter Club Council Meeting
A.S.U. Office
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
Mason Jennings
Troubadour
8:00 p.m.
\$15.00

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
Buddy Guy
House of Blues Sunset
7:30 p.m.
\$30.00

Talib Kweli
Club Q-topia
9:00 p.m.
\$25.00
Mos Def's counterpart in Blackstar lets his lyrics go and provides unique beats and a strong impact in the underground hip hop scene.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7
Stereophonics
House of Blues Sunset
8:00 p.m.
\$25.00

MONDAY, MARCH 8
No Events Scheduled

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
No Events Scheduled

New Music:
Zero 7
-When it Falls
These two guys from North London put out their 13th album set to top the electronics charts in the UK and U.S.

Dave Brubeck
-For All Time
83-year-old jazz pianist releases yet another album as he continues to produce and make music while still touring.

Bob Marley & The Wailers
-Grooving Kingston 12
The noise that came prior to their Island Records signing in 1972 can be heard for the first time in a 3-disc, 71 track box set that is said to be the first of many new rare and unreleased reggae masterpieces.

Grant Lee Buffalo
-Storm Hymnal: Gems from the Vault (2CD)
Not since their 1993 release of Fuzzy has there been a more anticipated album. 11 years later, a best of and rarity double-disc set is bound to make fans listen.

Valley Celebrates Black History Month with Screening, Awards

■ **Keynote speaker Tony McGee stretches students in more ways than one.**

By KARA LAWTON
STAFF WRITER

Calesthenics, poetry, and dance took center stage at the Black Heritage Celebration in Monarch Hall Feb. 25. Keynote speaker Tony McGee led the audience in stretching and exercises and made a lasting impression with his message, "All it takes is hope and a good plan to fulfill your dreams."

"In order to have vision, you've got to have energy," said McGee while people in the audience clapped, pointed and twisted.

"That exercise will stay with me forever," said nursing student Destin McNeill. "McGee's words were very

inspirational and motivating. I believe he touched everyone."

Along with hope, a good plan and energy, McGee stressed the value of education.

"Nobody likes hiring dummies," he said. "Education is the difference between all men and women. Education will change the whole game ... add letters to your name, change your address and change your bank account."

McGee knows about those changes first-hand. Raised in a Watts Housing Project, he earned a bachelor's degree from CSUN, a master's from Lehigh University, and a master's

in business administration from Pepperdine University. McGee is the author of the book, "Can't Shove a Great Life into a Small Dream," a motivational speaker and a Peak Performance Consultant whose clients include the Boeing Company, American Red Cross, and the Target Corporation.

The "Destiny Doctor" told the audience they need three things to succeed: a sense of purpose, a creative mind and an unshakable belief in themselves.

"It doesn't matter what other people think because other people seldom think," he said. "Find your talent and let the whole world know you can do it."

McGee's advice was given with large doses of humor that made the audience of more than 70 people laugh often.

"It's information you can use for the rest of your life," said Marilyn Hairston, a Valley student's mother who brought her sons to the celebration.

"McGee broke everything down and explained why it's important. He made me think," said Greg Hairston, 17.

"We wanted a positive speaker who would make an impact and appeal to younger adults," said Valley Commissioner of Evening Division Sheretta Thomas, who helped organize the event co-sponsored by the Black Student Union and Associated Student Union.

Booths for the BSU, ASU and eight campus clubs lined the walls of Monarch Hall, alongside soul food, clothing, and other vendors.

"Club Day is [one of your best chances to] impact all students. We didn't want to exclude any race because



GABY ALONSO / VALLEY STAR

LISTEN UP! - Motivational speaker Tony McGee makes the crowd twist and shout at the Black Heritage Celebration at Monarch Hall.

the event is about being multicultural," said Thomas.

Valley students Crystal Honey and Melvyn Stakely read original poems.

Members of CSUN's Phi Beta Sigma fraternity performed a step routine — a modern African dance — and spoke about the importance of education and community service.

"It's always exciting to have the opportunity to get

together, appreciate, and learn from each other," said Valley President Tyree Weider to the audience.

Weider presented three African American students with Academic Scholar Awards in recognition of making the President's List for two consecutive semesters.

The event included workshops on topics such as taking notes and writing essays.



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

President to President - Valley president Tyree Weider presents A.S.U. president James Brevard with an Academic Scholar Award.

Film Brings Sobering Reminder to Celebration

■ **Black History Month recognizes issues as well as achievements for Valley Students.**

By JACKIE CONLEY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Students in their African American Studies class didn't know what to expect when their teacher told them they would be watching a movie for class.

On Tuesday the Associated Student Union and the Black Student Union presented a screening of "One Week," about the effects of the HIV epidemic on African Americans.

"This is in part of a celebration for Black History Month," said James Brevard, president of the Associated Student Union. "We also wanted to make students aware of some of the choices in life."

"One Week" tells the story of Varon Thomas, (played by co-writer Kenny Young), an African American who learns he was put on a contact list by someone who was diagnosed with AIDS and now has to take an HIV test.

The film's action takes place over one week, the amount of time it takes for Varon to get his results back. As he waits, he has to make choices that could effect his upcoming wedding and must deal with the consequences of his past actions.

"In a society where no one takes responsibility for

the influence of the media to the masses, props to him for touching what's real," said student Omar A. Quijada.

After the screening, students had a Q and A session with director and co-writer Carl Seaton.

For his first feature film, Seaton said he wanted to make a movie that would

have an impact on lives.

"HIV is a resident in the African American community," said Seaton. "Black folks aren't talking about it enough."

Seaton, a Chicago native and former high school teacher told students that as an African American filmmaker he does feel responsible for

the images that come out on the screen.

He added that although this movie was made for the African American audience,

the message is for everyone.

"This movie has universal choices that we all make, it transcends cultures and provokes thought," he said.

AIDS Hits Blacks Hard

By JACKIE CONLEY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

AIDS is the leading cause of death for African Americans aged 25 to 44, greater than homicide, heart disease, and accidents combined.

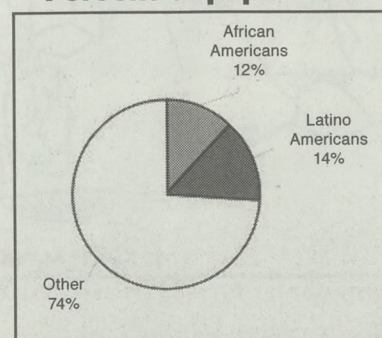
It is estimated that 300,000 to 500,000 African Americans are already infected with HIV; and in less than four years, African Americans will account for the majority of all people with AIDS in the United States.

African Americans account for more than half of all children with AIDS, more than half of all women with AIDS, and one-third of all men with AIDS.

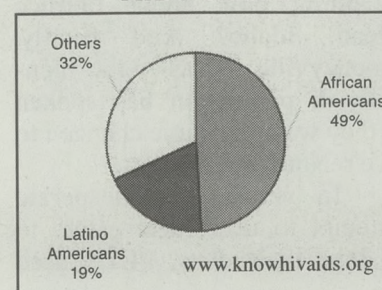
Although African Americans and Latinos represent 12 percent and 14 percent of the U.S. population respectively, in 2001, they

accounted for 49 percent and 19 percent of newly reported AIDS cases. The majority of new HIV infections are among African Americans (54 percent); 19 percent are among Latinos.

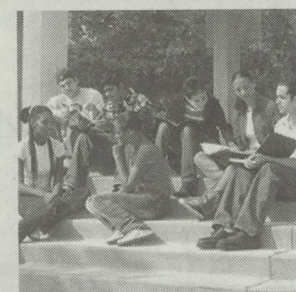
Percent of population



AIDS Cases



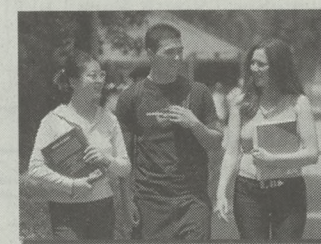
www.knowhivaids.org

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LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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The Student Trustee will be responsible for attending and participating in board meetings, act as a member of the board unit, prepare or meetings by studying the issues and asking questions. As the Student Trustee you will be representing your fellow students and need to present any student issues or concerns to the board. You may also attend conferences to further your learning and contributions to the board as well as help represent the college at community events and advocate for the college at state and national legislatures.

NEEDED
The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District is looking for a bright, motivated, responsible and articulate community college student to be a Student Board Member. The term of office is a year starting June 1st and ending on May 31st of the following year. To be eligible the student must have previously completed at least 12 units at a community college and be currently enrolled in 6 units.



APPLY NOW!

Applications are available in the ASU Office in Campus Center Room 102 and must be returned no later than Monday, March 15, 2004.



For more information, call: (818) 947-2708

VALLEY LIFE

5

FILM CLIPS

"Belleville" Dazzles; Sandler Is Memorable

■ Also: Tripping, horny and beautiful in Paris - and two mountaineers in trouble reconsider climbing icy cliffs just for the heck of it.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Dreamers

Michael Pitt, Eva Green,
Louis Garrel
Dir. Bernardo Bertolucci
★★★★

Bertolucci's best since "The Last Emperor" chronicles the sexual and mental labyrinths into which a trio of beautiful college-age explorers enter in Paris circa 1968. American Pitt ("Hedwig and the Angry Inch") falls in with a French brother and sister who are close - very close. Very, very close. The traveler finds himself enmeshed in their private universe of obsessive cinephilia, explosive politics and sexual brinksmanship.

Not having been sentient (or French) during the era portrayed in the story, I can only assume that Bertolucci and company have captured its essence. It certainly feels like something has been sampled accurately - the film has an atmosphere of flowing, dreamlike experimentation occasionally jostled by eruptions of reality. Although the motions of the plot are somewhat predictable, it's that hazy ambience, combined with strong acting, that makes "The Dreamers" fascinating. It's a freaky, horny, mind-bending trip with a ring of truth to it.

50 First Dates

Adam Sandler,
Drew Barrymore
Dir. Peter Segal
★★★★

Combined with the truly startling "Punch Drunk Love," this surprisingly mature and emotional comedy vaults Adam Sandler into a pantheon just below that of Bill Murray. "50 First Dates" is reminiscent of one of Murray's greatest, "Groundhog Day," in its plot conceit of time continually resetting for a roué transforming into a Romeo. Sandler plays Henry Roth, an island lothario content to prey on adventure-seeking tourists until he meets Lucy Whitmore (Barrymore), a beautiful resident who completely forgets him after their first encounter. It turns out that she has suffered brain damage that, while preserving her personality, prevents her from retaining any memories following that fateful accident. Think of it as "Memento" meets "Say Anything."

Sandler convincingly conveys Henry's change as he becomes so devoted to Lucy that he dedicates his life to winning her love each morning and helping her cope with a brave new world every day. Barrymore's performance has to be her best onscreen. There's plenty of Sandler absurdity: His usual retinue of friends pops up in a bizarre new set of guises and Rob Schneider provides able support as his one-eyed, pot-smoking buddy. What audiences will remember about this film, though, is the believable emotional connection between Sandler and Barrymore.

Touching the Void

Nicholas Aaron,
Brendan Mackey
Dir. Kevin Macdonald
★★★★

Here's the scenario: Two ambitious mountain climbers are on an unconquered, snow-covered peak in the Andes. Their supplies have run out. One completely shatters his leg during their descent.

While his partner tries to lower him before the two become snowbound, he falls over a ledge and finds himself dangling helplessly, slowly dragging his partner toward the precipice. His partner eventually has to cut the line to save himself; the injured climber falls 100 feet through an ice shelf into a crevasse.

Assuming his friend dead, the intact climber makes it back to base camp and prepares to leave. But the injured climber has improbably survived - and now must drag his broken body for miles over snow, ice and rocks before his friend breaks camp and leaves him to starve to death. And it's a true story.

Sounds incredible, right? Well, the facts of it are incredible, but the film of it is strangely less-than-gripping.

The Triplets of Belleville

(Animated)
Writer/Dir. Sylvain Chomet
★★★★

Surprise! The Academy blew it again.

"Belleville" is trippy, haunting, wild and weird - in just the right measure. Great animation not only presents us with a different way of looking at the world, but conveys richness and complexity of character and connects us to a human story. "Belleville" succeeds on all counts. Its plot, involving the kidnapping of the grown grandson of a devoted and determined grandmother, is almost secondary to the inventiveness of the storytelling and the memorable, "found jazz" music.

Almost, but not quite.

The characters of the grandmother and her faithful dog Bruno are so sympathetic and, well, dogged in their pursuit of the lost boy that one can't fail to follow their struggles with real interest. The stoic, silent, thickly-besppectacled old lady with one leg longer than the other simply won't allow seemingly insurmountable obstacles to keep her from her beloved grandson. It's a darker, stranger and far more affecting quest movie than its mega-grossing rival, "Finding Nemo." Highly recommended.

Reviews For You

The Valley life section provides the reader with restaurant reviews, CD reviews, movie recommendations and critiques, and any event that may go on in the art, dance, music and theater departments here at Valley College.

If you have the need to find out more about any

A Valley BBQ Heaven

■ Marcus Meade and Joseph Smith keep their customers happy with consistency.

By PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Back in 1991 Linda Meade hadn't imagined that her BBQ pit would have the success it has today. With loyal customers coming in from the neighborhood, from around town and the country for that matter, Meade has people coming back for more. With celebrities such as

Owen Wilson, Usher Raymond and Queen Latifah dropping in on a regular basis, the word has gotten out that people are searching for this corner joint when they are in dire need of some homemade BBQ.

Now in it's 13 year of operation, the Meade family still holds on to this Studio City hot spot. Another Meade has taken the reign as Mama Meade stepped

down in 1998 to let her son Marcus and friend Joseph Smith take over. Marcus runs the continually crowded grill as he lathers each order with the Meade family secret that remains hidden in their BBQ sauce. With up to 75 orders a day throughout the week and nearly double that come the weekend, Marcus is Barbecuing and Joseph is answering the phone accepting

non-stop orders and prepping food.

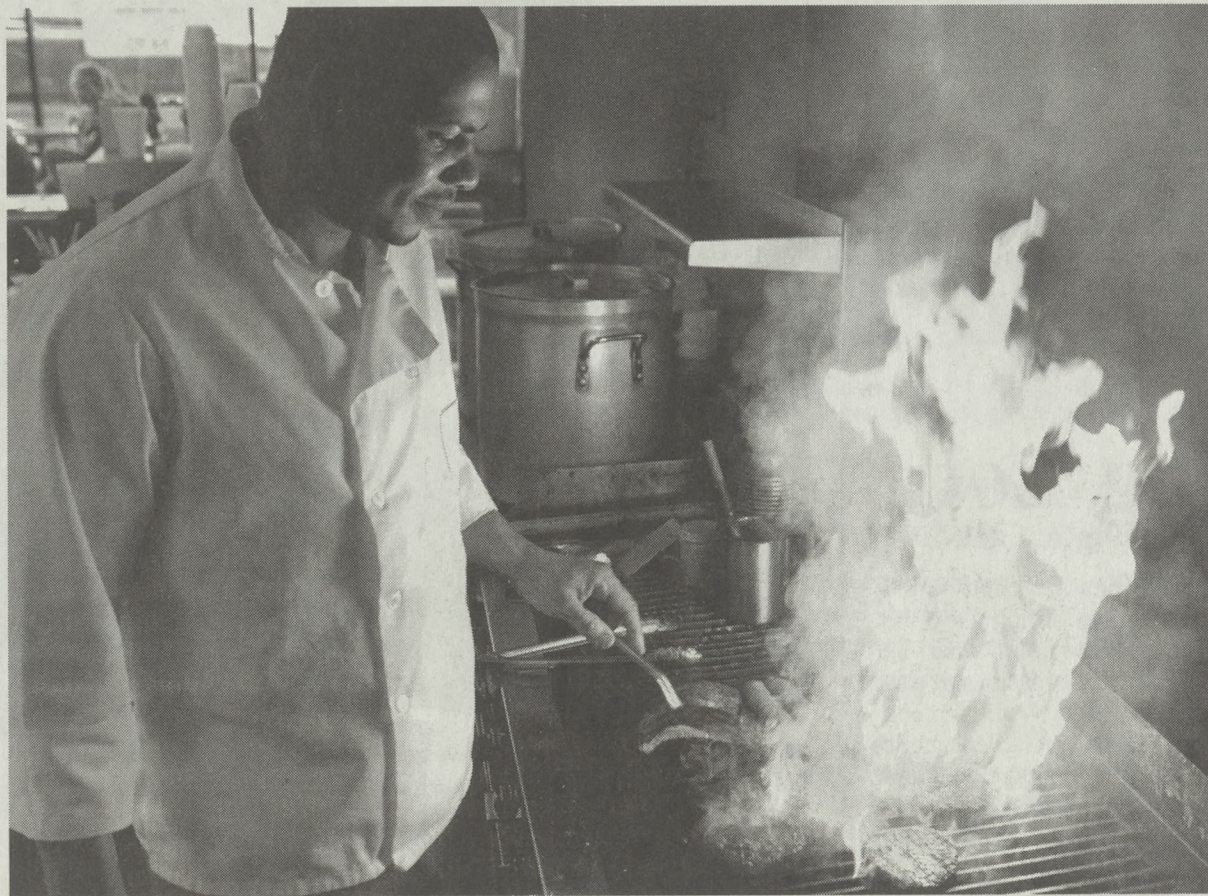
"People keep asking us why we don't expand and open other locations," said Meade. "We like to keep everything consistent with quality food that is fresh; when you expand the food loses it's consistency."

These ribs that are made upon ordering and slide off the bone are not all that Uncle Andre's has to offer. The fried chicken, collared greens, the catfish and mashed potatoes are all mouth watering treats at an affordable price. Homemade lemonade with enough sugar to cause a diabetic nightmare is the topper when chowing down on this cuisine. With lunch specials ranging from \$4.95-11.95, the crowds leave satisfied in anticipation for their next visit.

If you want to get your ribs in less than two hours come the weekend you had better call well in advance. Their weekend rush leaves them bombarded with order after order and more home cooking than anybody could ask for.

"Our weekend rush usually starts around 5:30 on Fridays," said Smith. "We take advantage of our downtime any chance we get to try and get ahead of things."

Named after Marcus' uncle, Andre's remains to be a local favorite on the corner of Colfax and Moorpark. They are open Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. (818) 763-8414



DEISREE DELGADO / VALLEY STAR

FINGER LICKIN' GOOD - Marcus Meade of Uncle Andre's prepares some ribs with the family's secret sauce. The Meade family has been heating up the grill since 1991

Stills fail to reveal; a classic Case

■ Up and coming rockers let down fans at the Troubadour, while alt-country beauty rocks the historic Hollywood Derby.

By PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Stills Troubadour 2/26/04

Front man Tim Fletcher seems to enjoy standing in one position, lifting his left heel to the beat and staying there for his entire set as he shares his lyrics and no more. A less than satisfactory performance had the crowd anticipating their hit single, "Still in Love Song," so they could get out of the sold

out Troubadour.

The Montreal quartet failed to perform every song at it's full potential. Hopefully the crowd that gathered into the intimate venue for their show the night before saw something worth talking about. The Stills need better showmanship and a person to step up and take the band to the places it should already be at.

Neko Case

The Derby

2/27/04

Virginia born Neko Case is

charming, beautiful and talented. With a voice comparable to Patsy Cline and stories to entertain the crowd, Case made jaws drop as she put on an impressive set at The Derby Friday night with hits off of her most recent album Blacklisted. At one point you could see the crowd shiver when she hit the chilling notes of "Look for Me (I'll be around)." Case delivered a sound that filled the derby as the crowd stood in silence and awe of her vocal abilities.

Starsailor Scores With Silence

■ Walsh gets personal in his music.

By KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Starsailor gets comfortable with songs about finding your place in the world on its sophomore album "Silence is Easy." Fans of the UK quartet's 2001 debut "Love is Here" have been greeted with a worthy follow-up that is rounded out and less abrasive vocals from James Walsh and tenderly buoyant melodies. Lucky Americans get an extra dose of the melodic sentiments with two U.S. bonus tracks "Could You Be Mine?" and "At the End of A Show."

The potent synthesis of Barry Westhead's skill on

piano and the steadfast bond between drummer Ben Byrne and bassist James Stelfox are effectively bolstered by violins and additional strings in "Telling Them," "Bring My Love" and "Four to the Floor."

In "Bring My Love," vocals and strings are gracefully juxtaposed when Walsh sings, "All the seas shall rise, all the stars will shine/ And the moon will fall cross the meadow... Bells will ring and everyone will know I came to bring my love, back home."

Some of the sweetest sounds on the album are evoked in "Four to the Floor," where Westhead shines in his support of

Walsh's love-intoxicated vocals ("I could have it all, whenever you are near").

Still, the album's title track, created with the aid of legendary producer Phil Spector, is arguably the shining star of the lot. Simple lyrics and a compelling harmony pull the track continuously forward - even when it's over it will linger in your head for hours. Spector also produced the song "White Dove" for the group; although they valued the partnership they chose to work with several other producers in order to fulfill their own vision for the album.

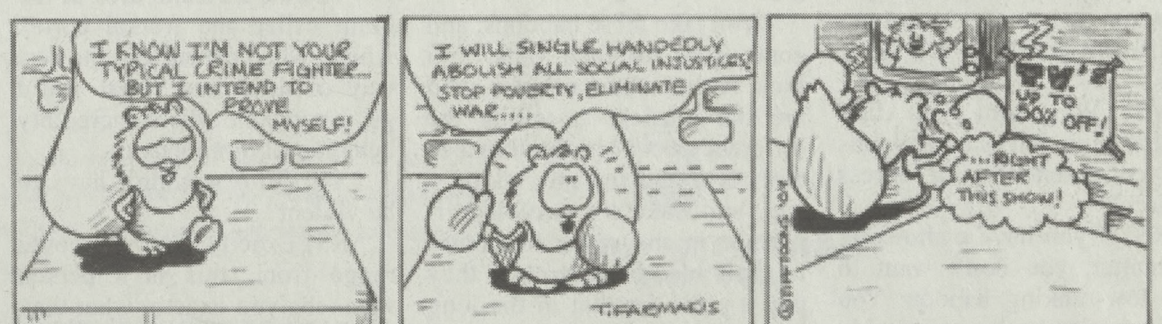
Each of the 13 songs carries the album's theme of sincere emotions, espe-

cially with genuine poetry like "My restless heart beats like a wanton drum," in "Restless Heart." Rather than be carried by one or a few strong songs, the compositions are threaded together smartly; each song fits a piece of the puzzle bearing a picture of perceptive content.



Starsailor
Silence is Easy
Capitol Records
★★★★

FIGHT LIKE A SQUIRREL



Additional content
online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.com

- VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Student Health Coverage Available

■ Minimal enrollment required for Community College League program.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS
NEWS EDITOR

Health insurance is now available for community college students through a program founded by the Community College League of California.

The program is available to all community college students enrolled in six or more units, and eligibility requirements are minimal, according to the league.

"The response to this program has been wonderful," said Ray Giles, director of special services at the league in a recent press release. "More of our students now have medical insurance and [with it] the protection health insurance provides."

The program includes an optional dental plan through Delta Dental of California, a toll-free nurse advice line available 24 hours a day, discounts on eye exams, contact lenses

and frames, hospital room and board, intensive care, outpatient surgery, physician visits, ambulance service and other medical benefits.

Nearly 400,000 community college students in California are uninsured and at risk for unplanned financial obligations due to high-cost medical expenses, which could result in the student dropping out of school or delaying medical care, according to the group.

Sixty-nine of the state's 108 community colleges are offering the voluntary health insurance program to their students.

More than 1,300 community college students are now enrolled in the program, which launched state wide in the fall of 2001 in an effort to bring affordable health insurance to community college students.

For more information or to purchase coverage, call (800) 853-5899.

405 Parking Lot

■ 101/405 Interchange Is Getting A Face-lift

By JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

The San Fernando Valley's US-101/I-405 interchange linking the Ventura and San Diego freeways has been named the worst bottleneck in America, but may soon be less nightmarish.

A project is underway on the 101-405 to widen ramps, add a carpool lane on the northbound San Diego Freeway into the valley and otherwise ease the daily commute for some 318,000 drivers. It will save more than 738 million gallons of fuel and nearly 50 minutes in time per round-trip for the average commuter, according to a report released by the American Highway Users Alliance.

Bottlenecks caused by too many cars on too little road are to blame for about half of all traffic jams. Traffic accidents, work zones, bad weather and poor signal timing account for the rest, said the report. The modest improvements to bring traffic flow to a more acceptable level will yield tremendous benefits, despite factoring in additional delays during reconstruction and annual traffic growth.

The improvements will protect drivers from an estimated 9,017 crashes, includ-

ing 36 fatalities and 4,427 injuries, according to the report. There will also be reductions in emissions of carbon monoxide by 63 percent, smog-causing volatile organic compounds by 60 percent and carbon dioxide by 82 percent.

The report states that modest improvements aimed at bringing traffic flow to minimum acceptable levels at all 233 bottlenecks would, over the 20-year life of the improvement projects, reduce the amount of time commuters have to spend on the road, save thousands of lives, prevent hundreds of thousands of injuries and help us safeguard the environment.

"While there is no single solution for reducing congestion, fixing traffic bottlenecks is a critical starting point," said Diane Steed, president and CEO of the American Highway Users Alliance on its website.

Los Angeles holds the dubious honor of having four of the top ten worst highway bottlenecks in the nation: the I-405 (San Diego Freeway) at I-10 Interchange, the I-10 (Santa Monica Freeway) at I-5 Interchange, and the I-405 at I-605 Interchange.

"The good news is there's hope for curing congestion on our highways," said Steed.

'Budget'

continued from page 1

those who come to them instead of going to the UC or CSU level cannot be exactly predicted.

"People are very nervous at this point because things are unsettled," said Shannon Stack, president of Valley's academic senate.

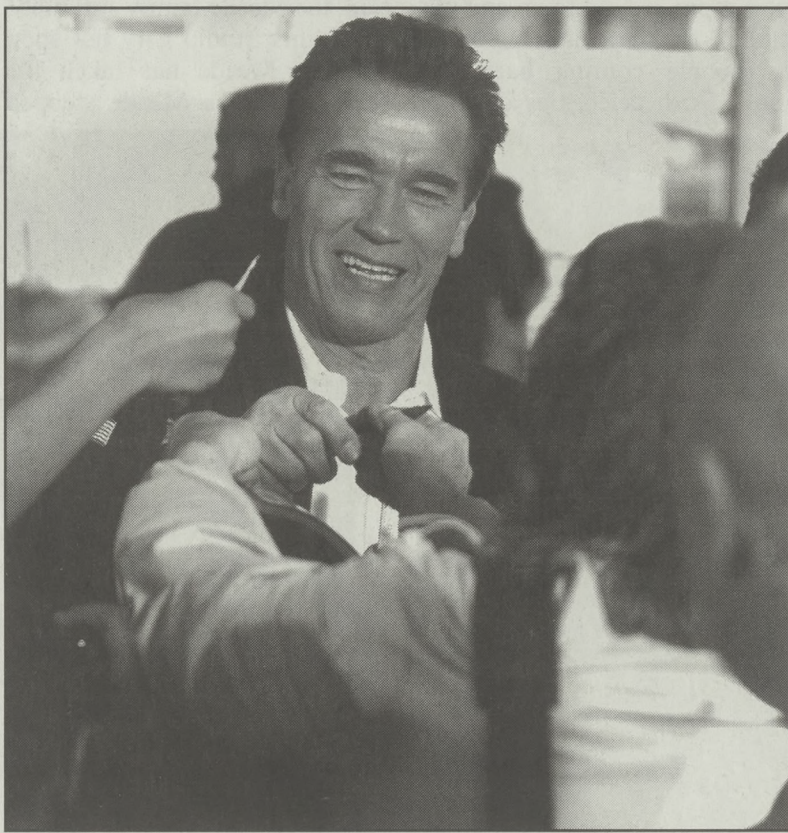
Others are concerned about losing funding for categorical programs such as Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and the Puente program, if the funds are grouped into block grants as proposed. Both programs offer tutoring and counseling to disadvantaged students.

"We're debating right now what we're going to do in March,

because we're sending students to Sacramento," said Igor Kagan, ASU commissioner of political affairs. "Some students want to go yell about fee increases. Others, like me, feel that we got a pretty good deal because we're getting 3 percent for enrollment growth and classes will be available. I feel it's not something we should yell about because we don't want money to get taken away from our enrollment or classes."

Kagan and others at Valley said students shouldn't worry about the fee increase because the Board of Governor's fee waiver will be increased to accommodate it.

The state legislature will work with Gov. Schwarzenegger to finalize the budget, which should be signed in June.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT- Arnold Schwarzenegger signs autographs for supporters at propositions 57 and 58 held at Mulholland Middle School Feb. 28.

'Strike'

continued from page 1

lost thousands of customers. Business swelled instantly as the picket lines disappeared.

The growth in business and transition between employees creates a lot of work for all market workers. "Over the next three to four weeks it's going to be rough," said Lee Hayes, store manager at Pavillions on Kester Avenue and Ventura Boulevard. "Business has picked up a lot." Hayes did not know the fate of the replacement workers, who were unable to comment due to the high volume of traffic at markets.

"Most people are just happy to get back to their jobs and make money again. I think the only real drawbacks will be for new employees," Parker said, due to the two-tiered system described in the contract. Parker added that it

may also be tough for many to resume to work as usual.

For many shoppers, the solidarity gradually faded. "The strike was a bit drawn-out," Valley student Lori Douglas said, "and while I hope the strikers got what they were fighting for, I also think that people stopped caring after a while." To Douglas, the resolution was "overdue," now things can return to business as usual.

'Chancellor'

continued from page 2

negotiations with the district's classified bargaining units.

In an interview with Lynn Winter Gross, director of Public Relations for the district, Landsberger said that, after graduating law school he wanted to use his skills and "social conscience" in some way that he could feel good about.

'Restrictions'

continued from page 1

one conviction for possession are not eligible for a year starting from the date of the conviction; a second conviction and they are ineligible for two years; a third time and the suspension is indefinite.

Those convicted for drug sale suffer stricter penalties: first offense suspends them for two years, and those convicted a second time are suspended

indefinitely. Minors' records of convictions are cleared once they turn 18, reinstating their eligibility.

Applicants can regain eligibility only if they complete a rehabilitation program, or if the conviction is reversed. There have not been many cases of students being turned down for drug convictions at Valley College since most applicants' suspension periods have already passed by the time they apply, according to Barbara Ralston, director of financial aid.

'Rodriguez'

continued from page 2

been a revolution for 100 years," explained Rodriguez. "My father, who was really politically involved, felt it wasn't a safe place to raise a family."

Rodriguez' story as a professional firefighter is just beginning. After high school, he opted for Valley because he had heard about how hands-on the training was in their fire technology program. He's in his fourth year at the school, due to the demands on his time.

The Monarchs are an on-call crew, meaning members could be called at any time, would have to be ready in two hours and could be gone for two weeks. Even the most sympathetic instructors tend to have difficulty keeping people with such schedules on their class rosters.

By the time the California wildfires hit last year, Rodriguez was on his Bear Divide Hot Shot crew and in "wind-down" mode, getting ready for the end of the season, playing X-Box all day.

"San Bernadino blew up, then all of a sudden, Camp Pendleton," he recalled. They ended up setting backfires in Riverside until the end of a grueling 36-hour shift that Rodriguez considers one of his best experiences and one of the most mentally challenging, mentally. After a brief rest, the crew was dispatched to the military base at Camp Pendleton.

"They have a lot of ammunition scattered throughout there," he recalled, smiling. "So the fire's going down and you hear these bullets going off."

There are plenty of times when the stakes of what they do are hammered home for the firefighters.

"We were in Colorado, it was my second year on the Monarchs," said Rodriguez. "There were big trees everywhere and we were on a ridge top, [where] winds can knock full-grown trees over. They were already burned out at the base; they're pretty much free-standing. You get a gust of wind, that's not a good situation."

A professional tree-faller who had been dropping trees on fires for about 20 years was cutting one down when an erratic gust suddenly hit the mountainside.

"I remember they called over the radio that they needed EMTs. We had two in our crew, so we started heading over there, and like 10 seconds later they called back and said it was a fatality. A green tree, not the one he was [working on], fell on him and killed him on impact."

The Monarch crew was immediately pulled off the line. Burke gathered his charges in a meadow removed from the fire and the trees. According to Rodriguez, Burke told the young firefighters, "This is not a regular occurrence. What you guys need to appreciate is that this guy gave his life for something. And the only thing you can do to show respect is to learn from it."

"It bugged me for quite a while," said Rodriguez, quietly. "Falling trees, that was my job. For a while I was kind of timid about it. And to this day, I carry [that memory] with me, just to remember not to take anything for granted."

'Sapolsky'

continued from page 2

down.

VS: You talked briefly about the hard science involved in establishing the link between stress and disease. Is that, for instance, taking blood from control subjects and testing it for levels of certain chemicals?

RS: That's one type of study that is done. My lab studies how stress hormones damage the nervous system – the molecular biology of how a brain cell dies, and how that's made worse by stress hormones. We change the genes in these neurons to see if they're more or less susceptible.

What we wind up doing much of the time is growing brain cells in petri dishes and throwing in stress hormones at different levels ... It's quite cool.

VS: What did you find in studying African baboons that enlightened your stress research?

RS: If you have a choice in the matter, you don't want to be a low-ranking baboon. You don't want to be in an unstable hierarchy and you want to be

very good at telling the difference between your worst rival when he's getting in your face and when he's taking a nap on the other side of the field. Some baboons can't tell the difference between the two and they get just crazed. Some know if this is a big deal or this is not. And you want to have friends.

VS: The description in your book ("A Primate's Memoir") of the baboon family that was characteristically jittery, nervous – were they unable to differentiate?

RS: Exactly. And what it maps onto is what a Type A personality is in humans. These are people who see stressors that other people don't. As a result they have increased risk of heart disease because they raise their blood pressure eleven times a day.

You take these baboons, and controlling for their rank, you look at the subset of guys who are the loudest at telling the difference between the threat in their face and the guy taking a nap, and there's a twofold difference in the stress hormones in their bloodstream. And they pay a price for that in the long term.

VS: So, are humans geneti-

cally predisposed to violence?

RS: [At VCJCC] I'm going to be talking about what biology has to do with violence. Biology genes, brain chemistry, hormones, evolution and ecological pressures and how all of those interact with environment. And one of the themes that comes out of that is that there is no gene for violence. There is no hormone that is responsible for violence. There is no abnormal brain chemical. It's all of those things in the context of certain environments.

Certain environments make certain biology more aggression-prone and certain don't, and the punchline in studying the biology of all of this stuff is, it keeps winding up being a lesson about how we have to do things about the environment.

There's a certain area of the brain called the frontal cortex which, when damaged – the best way of describing what you'd get is someone who is incredibly behaviorally impulsive.

VS: Who wouldn't have to be violent?

RS: Exactly. And you could range from, this is a person who tells you exactly what they think of the pot roast you made while everybody else is saying

this is great, to a completely remorseless, sociopathic serial murderer. And there is no biology at this point that can tell you – it's not how much damage they have – you know, lose three more neurons and you go from burping at a wedding to being a murderer.

VS: So people must be conditioned to that?

RS: It's environment, it's getting born with damage in that part of the brain and get raised in a stable, upper-middle class household versus an unstable, poorer one and statistically, the former is the one more likely to be saying outrageous things about pot roasts and the latter is more likely to be the killer. There are biology-environment interactions.

There's hardly ever a case when somebody could say, "Don't blame me, it was my genes. It was my brain chemistry, it was my hormones."

There's a whole realm of brain damage where the person absolutely knows right from wrong but they can't do a damn thing about it.

VS: You mean people with no impulse control?

RS: Exactly.

VS: I shouldn't kill this guy,

but I can't stop myself.

RS: Yeah. And you can see it in a much milder way – it's a part of the brain that's very frequently damaged in strokes. And you'll get some 80-year-old who's had some frontal damage and there's this formal neuropsychological battery you'll go through, testing for stuff like that. You do this with kids, and kids have like, zero frontal function – the frontal lobe doesn't fully mature until you're about 30 – which explains a whole lot.

But you could do this where you hold five M & M's in one hand and one M & M in the other. You reach for the five, you get a reward of one M & M; you show some discipline, you reach for the one and you get a reward of five M & M's. [It's instant gratification versus discipline] – kids can't do it, chimps can't do it, elderly people who've had frontal damage can't do it. But they will sit there and they will say, "I know – I know what you're up to, I know how this works, I should reach for the one ..." and then they can't stop themselves. They can verbalize the right-versus-wrong strategy. Nonetheless, they can't stop themselves.

And that's a completely different realm of volition, of culpability, and in most states the legal systems only center around [telling right from wrong]. So part of it is pushing in new directions where biology greatly impinges on who you are. There is not a science at this point that can say, "Damage this part of the frontal cortex at this age under these conditions and in thirty years this person will be a murderer."

Aggression takes a lot of different forms. And in our society, the right kind of aggression gets you medals.

The "Five Provocative Speakers" series concludes in March with nationally-syndicated columnist Robert Scheer. The Valley Cities Jewish Community Center is at 13164 Burbank Blvd., Sherman Oaks, directly across the street from Valley College. Tickets and information are available by phone at (818) 786-6310.



Additional content
online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.com

The full-length version of
this interview and much
more is available at The
Valley Star's website.

'Unthinkable'

continued from page 3

opposing camps swayed any fence-sitting voters remains to be seen.

The hippified dancing of Kucinich's cadre did convince bystanders of one thing, though: George W. Bush would never take the Deadhead vote from the diminutive Ohioan.

Say what you will about kooky Kucinich, the little pointy-eared guy's got pluck. No wins and no delegates, leaving only about 2,000 to go for the nomination, but he shows no signs of quitting his quest for the precious.

Inside, the "action," for lack of a better word, was just as you'd expect: A packed house; local Democratic glitterati like former Governor Gray Davis, City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa and actors Ed Asner and Billy Baldwin in the crowd; Kerry trying to look presidential; Edwards looking vice presidential; Kucinich ranting about universal health care and the Rev. Al Sharpton stealing the show.

Precious little of substance was said by Kerry and Edwards as they set their sights squarely on the center and positioned themselves as a viable ticket against George Bush.

They frequently congratulated each other for being "good men" and "good friends," occasionally pointing out miniscule differences between their two platforms.

Rather, they spent their

time criticizing the president and agreeing with each other as presidentially as they could.

Kucinich, meanwhile, did his darndest to make sure that everybody knew that universal health care was his top priority.

He got in his best line when King summarized his plan as socialism: "What we have now is predatory capitalism that makes Americans the cash crop of insurance companies."

But the hands-down winner of the night turned out to be the very dark horse, the Rev. Al Sharpton.

Freed from the bonds of a realistic shot at winning, Sharpton has played his role as the party's conscience to the hilt throughout the campaign.

He has consistently raised unpopular issues and taken common-sense stands that would have no value whatsoever to someone who seriously thought he could win the nomination.

For instance, Sharpton fired the first shot across the bow when he rhetorically asked,

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"How could anyone who supports civil rights support the PATRIOT Act?"

The crowd laughed and applauded; Edwards and Kerry smiled uncomfortably (both had voted for it).

Later, the dynamic duo danced around the subject of gay marriage, both saying they personally weren't for it, but Bush was wrong to seek a constitutional amendment against it - that it should remain a state's rights issue.

Sharpton was right there with a pie in their faces: "It's dangerous to give states the right to deal with human rights. Unless you're prepared to say that gays and lesbians are not human beings,

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they deserve the same rights as all human beings."

After watching the business-as-usual politicians align themselves for the big bash and after seeing the one-time

gadfly-Jesse-Jackson-wannabe (did someone say "Tawana Brawley"?), hold Batman and Robin's feet to the fire, this cynical campaign watcher just may do the unthinkable on Tuesday.

The full-length version of this article is available online - go to www.lavalleystar.com

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LAVC SCORES

So. Cal. Regional Playoffs
Round 1
W. Basketball vs. Cypress
(L 65-74) 2/27/04
 Erika Hamilton:
 2 pts, 0-2 fg, 2 ast, 1 rb, 1 to, 2-2 ft
 Tiffanie Hamilton:
 0-2 fg, 1 ast, 5 fl, 2 to, 1 rb
 Nicole Gupilan:
 5 pts, 2-5 fg, 1 fl, 2 to, 0-1 ft
 Syretta Coleman:
 11 pts, 4-17 fgs, 7 rb, 7 ast, 1 blk, 2 to, 3-5 ft
 Kareemah Bernard:
 8 pts, 2-6 fg, 4 rb, 2 stl, 2 fl, 4-8 ft
 Roxy Quintero:
 15 pts, 6-13 fg, 1 blk, 3 to, 2 ast, 2 stl, 1 rb, 1 fl
 Melissa Chingren:
 13 pts, 5-10 fg, 3 rb, 1 blk, 1 fl, 3-5 ft
 Tiffany Maddox:
 8 pts, 4-18 fg, 2 ast, 2 blk, 3 fl, 12 rb, 2 to, 6-9 ft
 LAL Record: 19-11, 10-2
Baseball vs. Bakersfield
(L 1-10) 2/28/04
 Baseball Record: 0-13
Softball vs. Pierce
(L 0-5) 2/26/04
 Softball Record: 4-7

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/3/04
 Swimming @ Citrus 2:30 p.m.
Thursday 3/4/04
 Baseball @ Glendale 2 p.m.
 Softball vs. Santa Barbara 2:30 p.m.
Friday 3/5/04
 Swimming @ Mt. SAC All Day
 Track & Field @ Santa Barbara 2 p.m.
Saturday 3/6/04
 Swimming @ Mt. SAC All Day
 Baseball vs. Glendale 1 p.m.
Sunday 3/7/04
 No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 3/9/04
 Baseball @ Pierce 2 p.m.
 Softball @ Allan Hancock 3 p.m.

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers @ New Jersey Nets
(W 100-83) 2/29/04
 Shaquille O'Neal: 19 pts, 14 rb, 3-5 ft
 Gary Payton: 16 pts, 5 ast, 3-3 ft
 Horace Grant: 14 pts, 7 rb, 2-2 ft
 LAL Record: 38-20
L.A. Clippers @ Milwaukee Bucks
(L 88-100) 2/29/04
 Elton Brand: 26 pts, 10-10 ft, 2 ast
 Cory Maggette: 19 pts, 8-8 ft, 9 rb
 Quentin Richardson: 22 pts, 10 rb, 4 ast
 LAC Record: 25-33
L.A. Kings @ Ana. Mighty Ducks
(L 3-6) 2/29/04
 LAK Record: 25-18-15-7, 72 points

NOTES

NBA
 Pima County, Ariz. Justice Court Judge Paul Simon said Monday she would reconsider whether to suppress evidence from an airport search that resulted in a marijuana possession charge against Portland Trailblazer guard Damon Stoudamire.

NBA
 The Orlando Magic waived 37-year-old veteran Rod Strickland, per his request, after the Magic's loss in Boston Wednesday. In 16 seasons, Strickland is ranked seventh in NBA history for assists, and third among active players behind Mark Jackson and Gary Payton.

NBA
 The New Orleans Hornets waived guard Bryce Drew Tuesday, a day after placing him on the injured list to clear space for David Wesley. Drew averaged less than a point and an assist in 15 games with the Hornets this season.

NBA
 Cleveland madness grows to a dumb extent when it comes to their wiz kid. Armed security personnel watched over the safe arrival of 10,000 LeBron James bobblehead dolls in an armored truck at Gund Arena Monday.

NHL
 The New Jersey Devils acquired center Viktor Kozlov from the Florida Panthers on Monday in a trade for forward Christian Berglund and defenseman Victor Uchevatov.

NHL
 Los Angeles King right wing Dustin Brown took a slap shot off the left ankle from Kip Brennan Monday and had to leave practice early. Brown sprained that ankle before, causing him to miss 39 games.

MLB
 The Los Angeles Dodgers informed 39-year-old slugger Jose Canseco Tuesday they were not interested in his services after his lackluster performance during the team's open tryout Monday. Canseco said he wouldn't play in the minors, ending any chance of signing with the organization.

MLB
 San Francisco Giants owner Peter Magowan thinks the trade for Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees will hurt competitive baseball gameplay.

MLB
 The Chicago Cubs placed pitcher Mark Prior on the injured list because of an inflamed Achilles tendon, causing him miss five-to-10 days of spring training.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL PLAYOFFS - ROUND 1

Lady Monarchs Fall in First Round

■ Defensive lapses lead to earliest playoff exit in four years.

By SAM HAHN
 STAFF WRITER

The Valley College women's basketball team, which entered the Western State Conference Playoffs seeded seventh, lost in the first round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs to 10th-seeded Cypress College 74-65 at Valley Friday.

Despite having a higher playoff position, the Monarchs didn't take their opponents lightly.

"They (Cypress) are a hell of a team," said Head Coach Mike Muro before the game. "They are very quick and can run up and down the court very well. This is not a team we wanted to meet in the first round."

The Lady Monarchs received big games from starters Roxy Quintero (15 points), Syretta Coleman (11 points, 7 assists, and 7 rebounds) and Tiffany Maddox (13 points, and 12 rebounds) as well as reserve forward Melisa Chingren, who added 13 points. But the rest of the squad struggled overall, shooting only 37 percent (23-63) as a team and amassing 15 total fouls.

It was a seesaw game

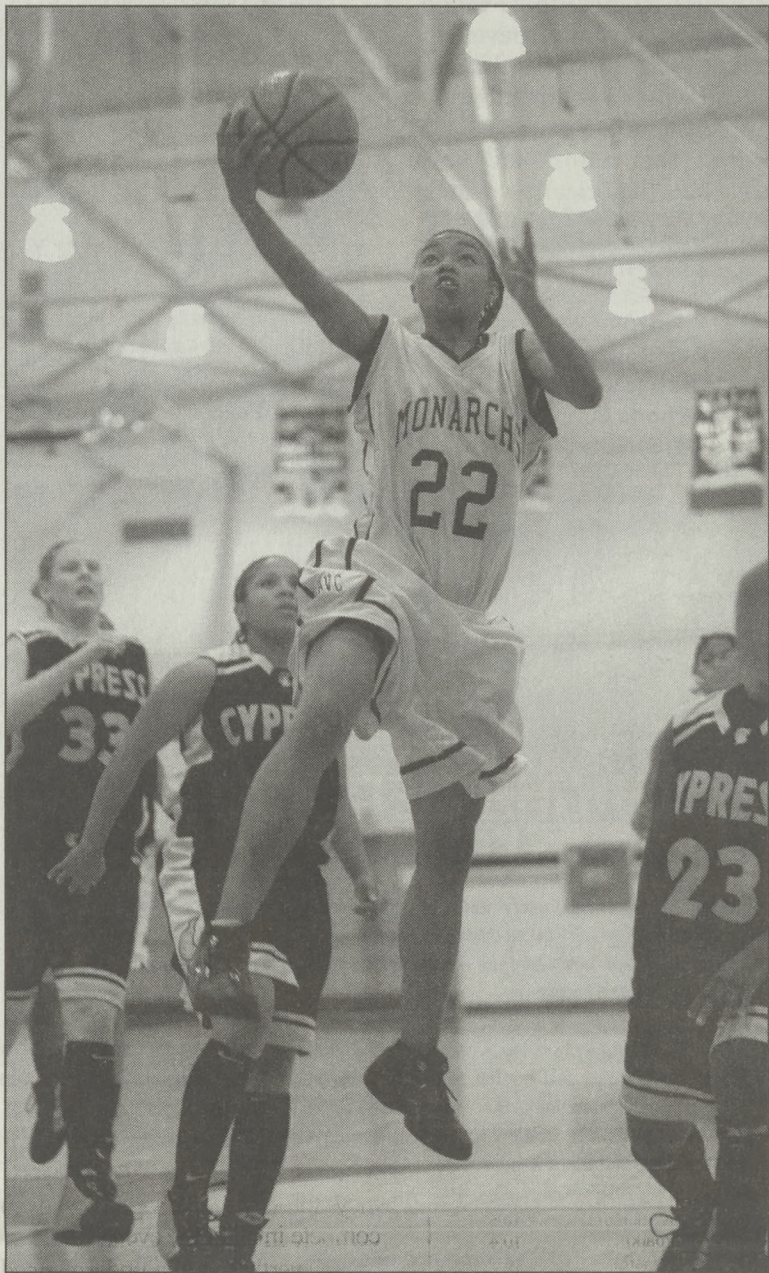
as the Lady Monarchs were inconsistent on defense. Cypress was led by freshman point guard Brittney Imaku, who continually hit clutch shots and held off a late charge by Valley by making key defensive plays.

With the loss, the Lady Monarchs had their quickest playoff exit in four years. While Maddox broke down in tears as the final buzzer sounded, a somber Coleman expressed her frustration.

"We didn't do what it takes to win ... that's pretty much it," Coleman said, adding that the Lady Monarchs' defensive struggles proved that while offense wins games, defense wins championships.

"This playoff game tonight basically summed up our season," said Muro. "It was time for us to stand up, and when it came down to it, nobody did." He noted that while the team was fun to watch throughout the season, they lacked true leadership in big games.

The Lady Monarchs now must look to rebuild, as the team will only have three returning players next season.



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

SEASON OVER - Playing in her final game Friday, sophomore guard Syretta Coleman, 22, sails over two Cypress defenders on her way to a layup.

WSC BASEBALL

Valley Orders a Bakersfield Dozen

■ Losing streak continues as Monarchs are one-hit at home.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Monarchs stumbled to another lethargic loss Saturday as the Bakersfield Renegades ripped them, 10-1, at Pike Field.

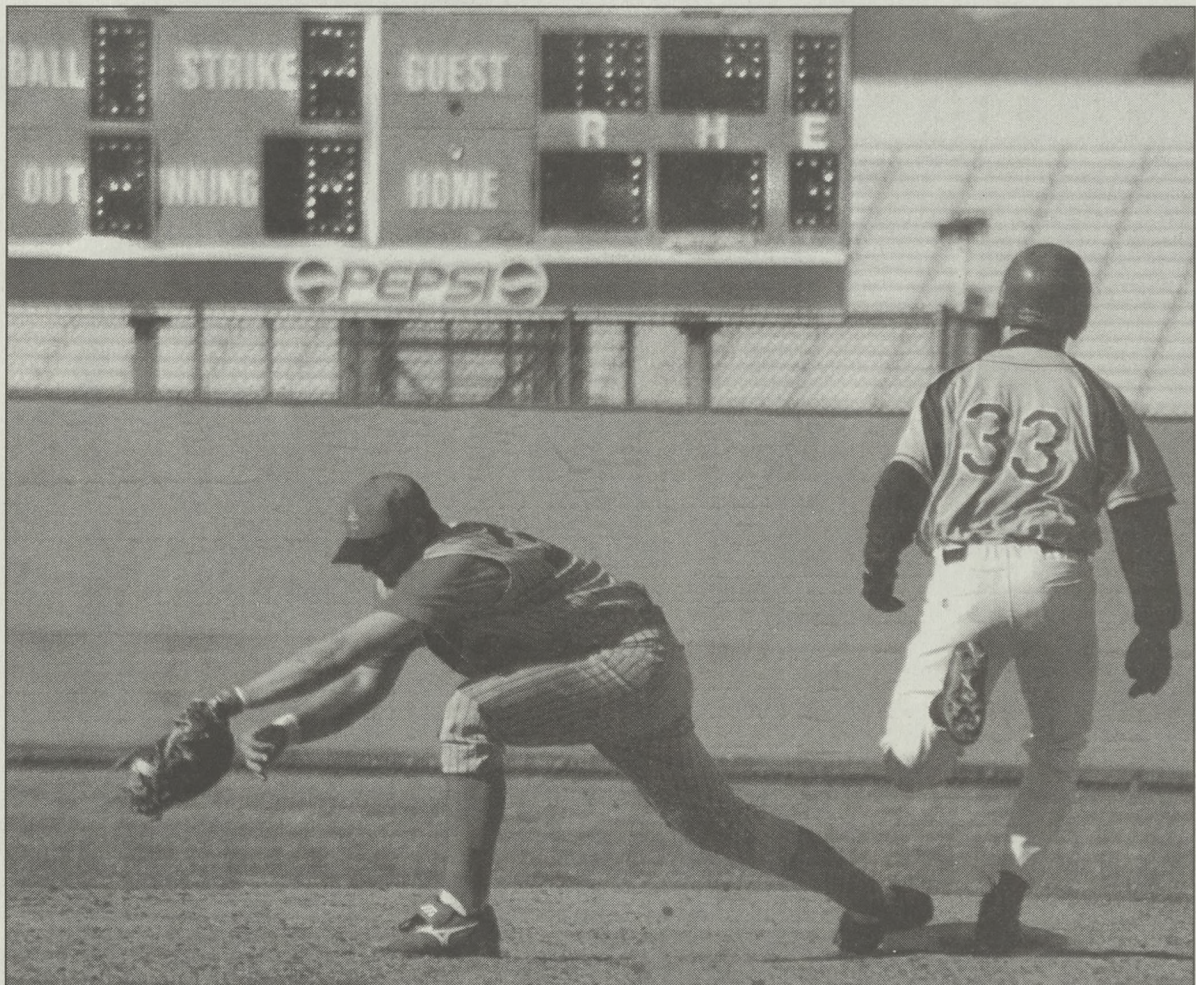
Valley's record sank to 0-13 under the weight of four errors and 11 strikeouts. The Monarchs managed only one hit against Bakersfield starter Matt Lusk and reliever Matt Garnett despite the Renegades yielding three walks, two hit batsmen and high pitch counts all day long.

The Monarchs managed only one hit against Bakersfield.

Of Lusk, Bakersfield coach Tim Painton said, "He's capable of doing that every time out, he's got good stuff and a good arm — had a problem in his previous outing not throwing strikes, but he had good command [against Valley]."

Catcher Jordan Wolff, who had a truly Jekyll-and-Hyde game, collected Valley's lone hit and lone RBI. Wolff's two-run throwing error in the fifth helped break open a close contest, making it 5-0. He threw out two attempted base thieves but gave up three steals. In the sixth, another throwing error led to another Bakersfield run.

Starting pitcher Jorge



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

THE RUNDOWN - Errors and ground balls prevent the Monarchs from achieving their first win Feb. 28 against the Bakersfield Renegades. Here, center fielder Corey Brown, 33, attempts to beat the throw to first base.

Olmedo, meanwhile, deserved a better fate than the eight-run (five earned) shellacking he received in five-plus innings of work. He fought through several jams, only giving up sacrifice flies until falling apart in the fateful sixth despite having only occasional command of his curve. He didn't help himself, though, by walking four and committing a run-scoring error of his own in the first.

Valley scratched out a run in the seventh after star second baseman Abel Pulido's shirt was grazed by a pitch to start the inning. Pulido's aggressive slide at second on an attempted force out caused a Bakersfield error that let him get to third with none out. He later scored on Wolff's grounder to the pitcher, but by then it was 9-1 and the Monarchs were staring down the barrel of a dozen losses to

start the season.

Left fielder Max Echazabal made a fine running catch in the seventh and sidwinding reliever Mike Rodriguez did his best to stem the tide, but it was nowhere near enough for the struggling Monarchs.

Up Next:
Thursday 3/4/04
 Baseball @ Glendale 2 p.m.

Three Monarchs Make It To Division 1

■ Despite a one-win season, universities accept some of Valley's best football prospects.

By C.J. HARRIS
 STAFF WRITER

Valley running back Edric Prim said he was happy for his former teammates and said it was nice to see that all their hard work paid off.

"They don't have to struggle anymore; all their hard work paid off," said Prim, who rushed for 1,051 yards last season for the Monarchs.

Tumarian Moreland, Rashaard Goodrum, and Tearrius George were the best at their positions last season. Now, all three have signed with Division I schools to show their talents.

"I came to Valley to play receiver but, it didn't work out that way," said Moreland, a 6-foot-2 200 pound corner from Palm Beach, Fla. Moreland played high school football at Palm Beach Lakes High, where he registered 59 catches for 825 yards and 13 touchdowns. An ankle injury playing basketball caused Moreland to lose his scholarship to Nevada, he tried to play and Highland Community College and then transferred Valley.

"When I first switched to defense I was using all athletic ability; when I started working on my technique I became a better corner," said Moreland. His athletic ability and newfound technique earned him conference player of the week three times his freshman year. Moreland recorded seven interceptions during his freshman year.

"During the off season, I watched film on pros such as Charles Woodson, Champ Bailey, Sam Madison and Deion Sanders," Moreland said. "I watched them to see what it takes to become a shutdown corner."

His hard work paid off again last season as Moreland earned first team all conference.

"I really enjoyed my
 Please see D-1 page 9

Monarchs Rule at Mini-Meet

■ Valley runs circles around the competition in Bakersfield.

By DAVID BROWN
 STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs' track and field team walked away with five wins Saturday, including two first places, two second places and one third place, despite being the smallest team at the meet.

Athletes from Bakersfield, Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Monica and Valley gathered in the cold at Memorial Stadium for the Western State Conference mini-meet to compete on a puddle-riddled track.

The Monarchs started off strong, placing in the first two events of the day with Paul Hines' 129-foot javelin throw good for third and D'Andre Good's 21-foot-6-inch long jump taking second.

"That was a nice throw," commented an official watching
 Please see Track page 9

SPORTS

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9

OFFICIAL STATS WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE

Women's Basketball

| Most Three-Point Field Goals Made | Players |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 60 | Corey Edgmon (Bakersfield) |
| 55 | Shannon Kegley (Glendale) |
| 51 | Linnae Barber (Canyons) |
| 50 | Danielle Johnson (Glendale) |
| 50 | Courtney Young (Ventura) |
| 49 | Sarah Ruiz (Moorpark) |
| 46 | Krystal Clay (Canyons) |
| 45 | Cayasi Garife (Allan Hancock) |
| 41 | Janette Herrera (L.A. Pierce) |
| 40 | Charise McClain (Santa Monica) |
| 39 | Melissa Nakoa (Oxnard) |
| 37 | Natasha Belou (Moorpark) |
| 31 | Ebony Johnson (Citrus) |
| 31 | Talia Joyce (Santa Barbara) |
| 27 | Shanna Patt (Oxnard) |
| 24 | Lauren Villa (Cuesta) |

Most Steals

| Players | Steals |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Syretta Coleman (L.A. Valley) | 126 |
| Ebony Johnson (Citrus) | 100 |
| Courtney Young (Ventura) | 82 |
| Roxanna Quintero (L.A. Valley) | 81 |
| Taylor McQuilliams (Bakersfield) | 80 |
| Stephanie Roberts (Bakersfield) | 76 |
| Jermiece Johnson (Glendale) | 74 |
| Kaipresha Price (Canyons) | 73 |
| Deniece Johnson (Glendale) | 70 |
| Erica Doyle (Canyons) | 68 |
| Lauren Villa (Cuesta) | 65 |
| Shannon Kegley (Glendale) | 64 |
| Kristine Gleisberg (Ventura) | 63 |
| Charise McClain (Santa Monica) | 62 |
| Yvette Natividad (Citrus) | 61 |
| Krystal Clay (Canyons) | 60 |
| Leslie Miller (Allan Hancock) | 60 |
| Danielle Johnson (Glendale) | 59 |
| Naomi Johnson (Oxnard) | 57 |
| Fabi Zavala (Glendale) | 57 |
| Stefanie Foster (Citrus) | 56 |
| Jessi Loring (Canyons) | 56 |
| Linnae Barber (Oxnard) | 54 |
| Liz Newman (Oxnard) | 52 |
| Erika Hamilton (L.A. Valley) | 47 |

Scoring Leaders (North)

| Finals 12 Games | Players | Avg. |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------|
| 19.2 | Leslie Miller (Allan Hancock) | |
| 18.8 | Courtney Young (Ventura) | |
| 17.8 | Naomi Johnson (Oxnard) | |
| 13.7 | Kristine Gleisberg (Ventura) | |
| 12.7 | Cayasi Garife (Allan Hancock) | |
| 11.8 | Lauren Villa (Cuesta) | |
| 11.8 | Jessica Cox (Cuesta) | |
| 11.6 | Courtney Pena (Moorpark) | |
| 11.4 | Sarah Ruiz (Moorpark) | |
| 10.5 | Janette Herrera (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 10.0 | Heather Douville (Santa Barbara) | |
| 9.7 | Shannon Antunez (Ventura) | |
| 9.6 | Erica Guy (Oxnard) | |
| 9.6 | Cheyenne Agin (Santa Barbara) | |
| 9.5 | Jennifer Goodman (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 9.5 | Darya Shavaran (Santa Barbara) | |
| 9.4 | Staci Harris (Cuesta) | |
| 8.9 | Lea Sabado (Moorpark) | |
| 8.8 | Lindsay Goldblad (Moorpark) | |
| 8.4 | Dore Kiniry (Allan Hancock) | |
| 8.4 | Janine Roberson (Oxnard) | |
| 8.2 | Melissa Nakoa (Oxnard) | |
| 7.8 | Kimmi Stephan (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 7.5 | Talia Joyce (Santa Barbara) | |
| 7.3 | Liz Manni (Cuesta) | |
| 6.8 | Medina Britt (Ventura) | |
| 6.8 | Sascha Pack (Ventura) | |
| 5.7 | Rachael Kolbeck (Ventura) | |
| 5.4 | Dani Golson (Allan Hancock) | |
| 5.3 | K. Barnes (L.A. Pierce) | |

Scoring Leaders (South)

| Final 12 Games | Players | Avg. |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|------|
| 20.3 | Syretta Coleman (L.A. Valley) | |
| 20.0 | Charise McClain (Santa Monica) | |
| 19.2 | Jermiece Johnson (Glendale) | |
| 19.0 | Rhonda Johnson (Santa Monica) | |
| 18.6 | Jessi Loring (Canyons) | |
| 18.6 | Tiffany Maddox (L.A. Valley) | |
| 17.1 | Ebony Johnson (Citrus) | |
| 15.8 | Stephanie Roberts (Bakersfield) | |
| 15.2 | Krystal Clay (Canyons) | |
| 15.2 | Kaipresha Price (Canyons) | |
| 15.0 | Daunshae Andrews (West L.A.) | |
| 14.5 | Roxanna Quintero (L.A. Valley) | |
| 14.2 | Shannon Kegley (Glendale) | |
| 14.0 | Clarissa Horton (West L.A.) | |
| 13.8 | Charles Guerrero (Citrus) | |
| 12.5 | Cory Edgmon (Bakersfield) | |
| 11.3 | Ashley Nichols (Bakersfield) | |
| 10.6 | Arpi Babakhanyan (Glendale) | |
| 9.9 | Stefanie Foster (Citrus) | |
| 9.3 | Yvette Natividad (Citrus) | |
| 8.6 | Teniqua Bennett (West L.A.) | |
| 8.3 | Taler McQuilliams (Bakersfield) | |
| 8.2 | Danielle Johnson (Glendale) | |
| 7.8 | Deniece Johnson (Glendale) | |
| 7.7 | Mae Greenhaugh (Bakersfield) | |

League Scoring Leaders

| Players | Avg. |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Naomi Johnson (Oxnard) | 14.7 |
| Teniqua Bennett (West L.A.) | 13.0 |
| Jessi Loring (Canyons) | 11.9 |
| Darya Shavaran (Santa Barbara) | 11.3 |
| Rhonda Johnson (Santa Monica) | 11.3 |
| Tramaine Parker (Santa Monica) | 11.2 |
| Kimmi Stephan (L.A. Pierce) | 10.8 |
| Linnae Barber (Canyons) | 10.0 |

Men's Basketball

| Three-Point Percentage | Players | Pct. |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| 44.1 | Elijah Muldrow (Ventura) | |
| 43.9 | Hylas Smith (Ventura) | |
| 43.2 | Todd Tomlinson (Moorpark) | |
| 42.6 | Chris Reaves (Citrus) | |
| 42.5 | Irv Moses (Glendale) | |
| 41.4 | Mike Green (Cuesta) | |
| 40.7 | Mark Kelley (Citrus) | |
| 40.6 | Isaac Ansah (Cuesta) | |
| 40.4 | Johnny Gray (Moorpark) | |
| 39.6 | Raleigh Harper (Santa Monica) | |
| 39.6 | Dabo Kabov (West L.A.) | |
| 38.8 | Chris Dean (Citrus) | |
| 38.2 | Jason Flowers (Glendale) | |
| 38.2 | Monk (Bakersfield) | |
| 37.5 | Sylvester Allison (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 37.3 | Potts (Bakersfield) | |

Steals Average

| Players | Avg. |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Chris Reaves (Citrus) | 3.6 |
| Donnie Jones (Allan Hancock) | 2.9 |
| Jose Frias (Allan Hancock) | 2.5 |
| Carlos Rivers (L.A. Valley) | 2.4 |
| Jason Flowers (Glendale) | 2.3 |
| Dejuan Stevens (West L.A.) | 2.0 |
| Eric Jones (Santa Monica) | 2.0 |
| Omar Cowan (Santa Barbara) | 1.9 |
| Don English (Allan Hancock) | 1.7 |
| Chris Dailey (Santa Barbara) | 1.6 |
| DaShawn Strong (L.A. Valley) | 1.5 |
| Kenneth Eatmon (L.A. Valley) | 1.5 |
| Larry Monroe (Citrus) | 1.4 |
| Gregory Johnson (Ventura) | 1.4 |
| Ocie Wyatt (Bakersfield) | 1.4 |
| Durwin Williams (Glendale) | 1.3 |
| Davis (Bakersfield) | 1.3 |
| Raleigh Harper (Santa Monica) | 1.3 |
| Elijah Muldrow (Ventura) | 1.2 |
| Thomas Battle (Ventura) | 1.2 |
| Mike Green (Ventura) | 1.2 |
| Jason Kornegay (Allan Hancock) | 1.2 |
| Moses Gonzales (Ventura) | 1.1 |
| Robi Davidson (Santa Monica) | 1.1 |
| Justin Turman (Glendale) | 1.0 |

Scoring Leaders (North)

| Finals 12 Games | Players | Avg. |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------|
| 25.0 | Mike Green (Cuesta) | |
| 22.0 | Sylvester Allison (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 20.9 | Kevin Rogers (Allan Hancock) | |
| 20.8 | Moses Gonzales (Ventura) | |
| 19.5 | Earnest Williams (Moorpark) | |
| 18.2 | Johnny Gray (Moorpark) | |
| 16.9 | Elijah Muldrow (Ventura) | |
| 14.9 | Jonathan Pickert (Santa Barbara) | |
| 14.5 | James Hudson (Oxnard) | |
| 14.3 | Isaac Ansah (Cuesta) | |
| 14.3 | Lagunza Tibbs (Oxnard) | |
| 14.3 | Jeremiah Turner (Moorpark) | |
| 12.6 | Marcus Travis (Oxnard) | |
| 12.3 | Danny Gray (Ventura) | |
| 12.0 | Omar Cowan (Santa Barbara) | |
| 11.9 | Jeff Kuhn (Cuesta) | |
| 11.4 | Gregory Johnsons (Ventura) | |
| 11.1 | Talani Calhoun (Allan Hancock) | |
| 11.1 | Gary Nunez (Ventura) | |
| 11.0 | Don English (Allan Hancock) | |
| 10.5 | Gabe Bernard (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 10.4 | Mike Gentry (Moorpark) | |
| 10.2 | Dwan Robinson (Oxnard) | |
| 9.9 | Donnie Jones (Allan Hancock) | |
| 9.7 | Brandon Duplessie (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 9.3 | Henry Aubrey (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 9.0 | Hylas Smith (Ventura) | |
| 8.7 | Kevin Johnson (L.A. Pierce) | |
| 8.0 | Jose Frias (Allan Hancock) | |
| 7.3 | Trent Watts (Santa Barbara) | |

Scoring Leaders (South)

| Final 12 Games | Players | Avg. |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| 18.7 | Chris Dean (Citrus) | |
| 18.2 | Durell Davis (Canyons) | |
| 17.9 | Carlton Spencer (Canyons) | |
| 17.5 | Carlos Rivers (L.A. Valley) | |
| 17.5 | Monk (Bakersfield) | |
| 14.4 | Durwin Williams (Glendale) | |
| 14.4 | Mark Kelley (Citrus) | |
| 13.7 | Raleigh Harper (Santa Monica) | |
| 13.4 | Mark Felder (Glendale) | |
| 12.9 | Dejuan Stevens (West L.A.) | |
| 12.8 | Jason Flowers (Glendale) | |
| 12.4 | Phillip Givens (West L.A.) | |
| 12.4 | Darnell Jones (West L.A.) | |
| 11.6 | DaShawn Strong (L.A. Valley) | |
| 11.6 | Larry Monroe (Citrus) | |
| 11.5 | Stephen Booth (West L.A.) | |
| 11.1 | Reggie Johnson (West L.A.) | |
| 10.9 | Mike Newton (Glendale) | |
| 10.8 | Eric Jones (Santa Monica) | |
| 10.4 | Potts (Bakersfield) | |
| 10.3 | Andrew Bruckner (Canyons) | |
| 10.3 | Justin Turman (Glendale) | |
| 8.9 | Davis (Bakersfield) | |
| 8.8 | Dabo Kabov (West L.A.) | |
| 8.5 | Earl Felix (L.A. Valley) | |

League Scoring Leaders

| Players | Avg. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sylvester Allison (L.A. Pierce) | 20.0 |
| Earnest Williams (Moorpark) | 19.5 |
| Moses Gonzales (Ventura) | 19.4 |
| Mike Green (Cuesta) | 19.4 |
| Carlton Spencer (Canyons) | 19.1 |
| Kevin Rogers (Allan Hancock) | 18.8 |
| Carlos Rivers (L.A. Valley) | 16.6 |
| Chris Reaves (Citrus) | 16.5 |

Statistical Information Courtesy of Dale Beck, Athletic Information Dir. Grouped and Set for the Valley Star by Bob Teichmann

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail Valley Star Sports at
LAVCSports@Yahoo.com
or go online at
snap.to/lavesports.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The program is hurting right now. All I want is good press... I would rather have no press than bad press."

Francois Wolman,
Track and field coach.

Photo by Gaby Alonso

WSC TRACK AND FIELD

Sulcer Runs Down Competition

[Track, from page 8]

Hines' toss, "he's using all arm." Valley dominated the sprints, taking two wins in the 100 meter. Arthur Sulcer finished first with a time of 10.8 seconds; Good came in second at 11.1.

Before the race, Good told his teammates that he was just going to jog because he had re-aggravated a hamstring injury from football (he is a star defensive back for Valley). He had everyone fooled.

"Of course he did [run full speed]," said Coach Francois Wolman, "he is a competitor."

Sulcer also claimed first in the 200 meter with a time of 22.7 seconds, despite never having competed at that distance before the meet.

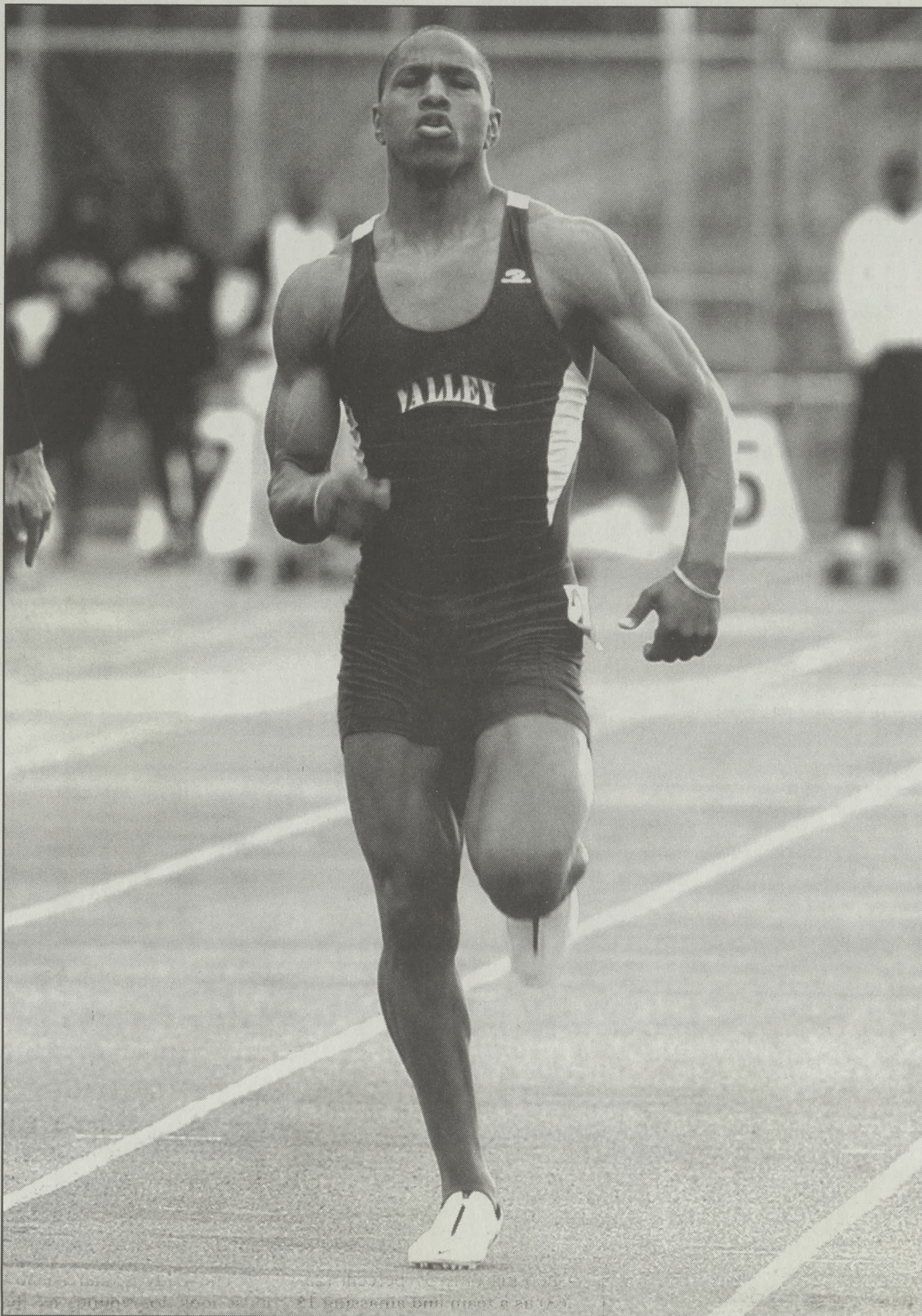
"Winning isn't everything," Sulcer said, "but is sure does feel great."

Philip Parks, one of the team's distance runners, missed the vans to Bakersfield, but managed to get there in time to compete in the last event, the 3000 meter. He took a Greyhound bus all the way to downtown Bakersfield and hitched a ride from there to Memorial Stadium. Parks missed two races Saturday, including the 1500 meter.

"I was in the coach's office yelling," Parks said, "because I had miss the vans and one of the staff told me to take a Greyhound."

Although the track team has enjoyed a boost in its roster size lately, Coach Wolman stressed the need for more athletes to join. The team is losing scoring opportunities because they do not have enough athletes to compete in all of the events.

Nevertheless, the undermanned Valley squad came away with plenty of honors to make the trip to Bakersfield worthwhile.



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

STROLLING TO VICTORY - Monarch runner Arthur Sulcer runs to victory in the mens' 100-meter and 200-meter runs at Bakersfield Memorial Stadium Feb. 27.

Aloha Monarchs

[D-1, from page 8]

experience here at Valley." Moreland said. Moreland signed with the University of Hawaii where he will be playing legendary coach June Jones, who coach Floridian and former NFL great Deion Sanders.

"People think because of my size that I can't run, weren't they surprised." Said Rashaard. With his rare combination of size (6'4 245 lbs.) and speed (4.67 40 yard dash) most offenses thought of Rahaard as a "monster".

"I'm very quiet I don't say much really, but; on the practice field and on the game field I'm completely a different person," Rashaard said.

At Pine Crest High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina Rashaard was an All State selection as an FB/LB rushing for more than 900 yards and eight touchdowns. On defense he registered more than 89

All three have signed with Division-1 schools to show their talents.

tackles, eight forced fumbles, 10 sacks, nine tackles for loss, three interceptions, and two touchdowns. As a linebacker at Valley, Rashaard has had several highlight hits knocking out several quarterbacks one from San Diego Mesa. "I was just doing my job." Rashaard said, who earned first team conference honors this past season.

Rashaard signed a full scholarship with the University of Washington this past month, "I feel really good with signing with Washington," he said.

"They talked about me when I was down, not when I was up." Said Tearrius. When Tearrius

was up he was the probably the most intimidating player on Valley's roster for the past two years. An All Stated selection out of Pine Crest High School, which he played with best friend and teammate Goodrum. In high school George registered over 76 tackles, 17.5 sacks, nine forced fumbles, three fumbles recoveries, and 12 tackles for loss. He was on his way to more awards. But a possession of marijuana charge ended his career with the Monarchs.

"When I did good I got no attention, when I got in trouble they blew it all out of proportion," said Tearrius. "I lost [out on] schools like LSU, Oklahoma, USC, and a lot of other school that wanted me. It made me wake up. It was a growing experience." Kansas State called and signed Tearrius to a full scholarship.

"They gave me a chance to prove myself, I'm going to take a full advantage when fall camp starts," he said. "Even through everything that has happened to me; I enjoyed my experience at Valley."

All three are scheduled to get their AA degrees this summer.

"I hope for the best for all three of them," said Defensive Coach Josh Stevenson.

| |
|--|
| Career Stats: |
| Rashaard Goodrum |
| 156 Tackles, 14 sacks, 3 interceptions, 5 forced fumbles, 17 QB hurries, 26 tacks for losses |
| Tearrius George |
| 115 tackles, 16.5 sacks, 6 forced fumbles, 10 QB hurries, 2 fumble recoveries, 1 td |
| Tumarian Moreland |
| 59 tackles, 5 tackles for losses, 2 forced fumbles, 9 passes defended, 11 interceptions for 98 return yards, 3 touchdowns. |

AN OPINION The Young Restless

By BOB TEICHMANN
SPORTS EDITOR

Attention, kings of the gridiron. Are you talented? Are you ready to pursue an exciting career that could give you the big bucks you've been dreaming of? Sadly, I must inform you that the National Football League will only be hiring people from the pre-natal-to toddler-age-range at this time.

The NFL, against its better judgment and a certain degree of common sense, is being forced to allow younger athletes into the league due to a February ruling from U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin. The order calls the league's rule barring players from entering the NFL until they have been out of high school for three years a violation of anti-trust laws.

What a crock o' crap. Scheindlin needs to wake up to the smell of tough-actin' Tinactin, Ben-Gay, fiberglass casts, and the possible photo in Monday's Los Angeles Times about some 20-year-old idiot running back with his arm busted in five places. Yes, folks, let's put a 175-pound nerd on the grass at 3Com Stadium with a guy 15 years his senior and 200 pounds heavier...

Everybody remembers the nasty accident of Dec. 14, 1986 when New York Giants' linebacker Laurence Taylor broke the leg of Washington Redskins' fullback Joe Theismann below the knee. Theismann was a grown man, what more for a young chump?

Twenty-year-old Ohio State running back Maurice Claret declared soon after Scheindlin's ruling that he would enter the NFL draft in April. He isn't

without his pre-NFL controversy. Ohio State suspended Claret before last season as punishment for accepting money from a family friend and lying about it to university investigators and the NCAA.

Mike Williams, the 22-year-old USC All-American wide receiver, declared his entry into the April draft Wednesday. Unlike Claret, Williams doesn't have a rap sheet to his name and did manage to help the Trojans beat Michigan in the 2004 Rose Bowl.

But there is a situation neither guy has considered: What if Scheindlin's ruling is overturned?

Oh... dear. The NFL asked the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Friday to block Scheindlin's ruling. The league said "potentially tragic consequences" could occur if the ruling were to remain in place.

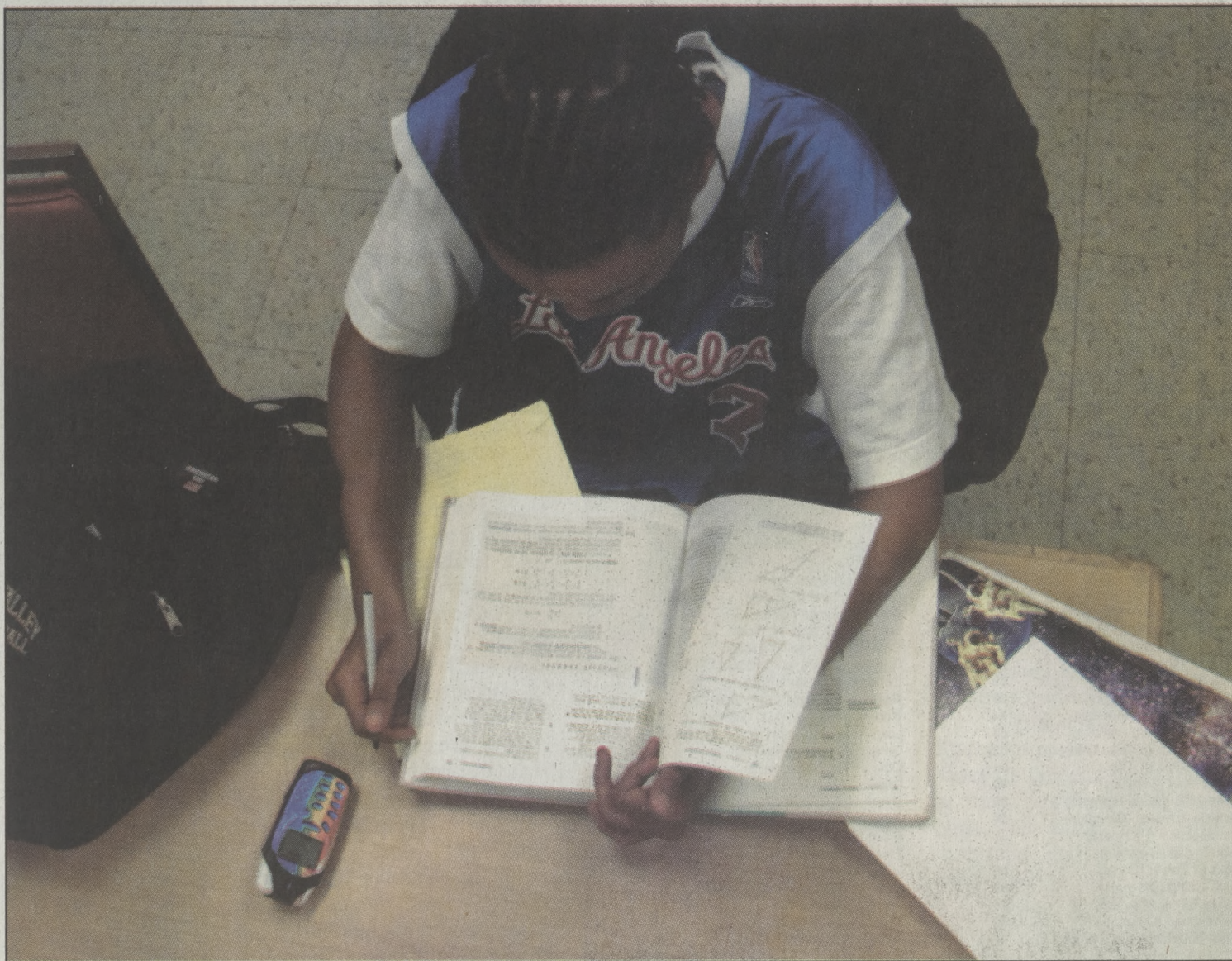
Regardless of the possibility that Claret and Williams would be barred from playing in the NFL by the appeals court, they would be ineligible for NCAA play because they were far-sighted enough to hire agents (Claret signed with Jimmy Sexton Saturday, Williams with Mike Azzarelli Wednesday).

These nuts have put themselves into a possible lockbox. If the ruling stays, they can go on their merry way to the NFL, if they're drafted. If the ruling is overturned, they won't have scholarships or event teams to go back to.

The issues are simple: safety, maturity, and common sense.

The End of Monarch Guard Duty

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY BOB TEICHMANN
SPORTS EDITOR



HITTING THE BOOKS - Sophomore Monarch Syretta Coleman puts equal time into her basketball practice and school work. Coleman makes her classwork a priority before everything else.



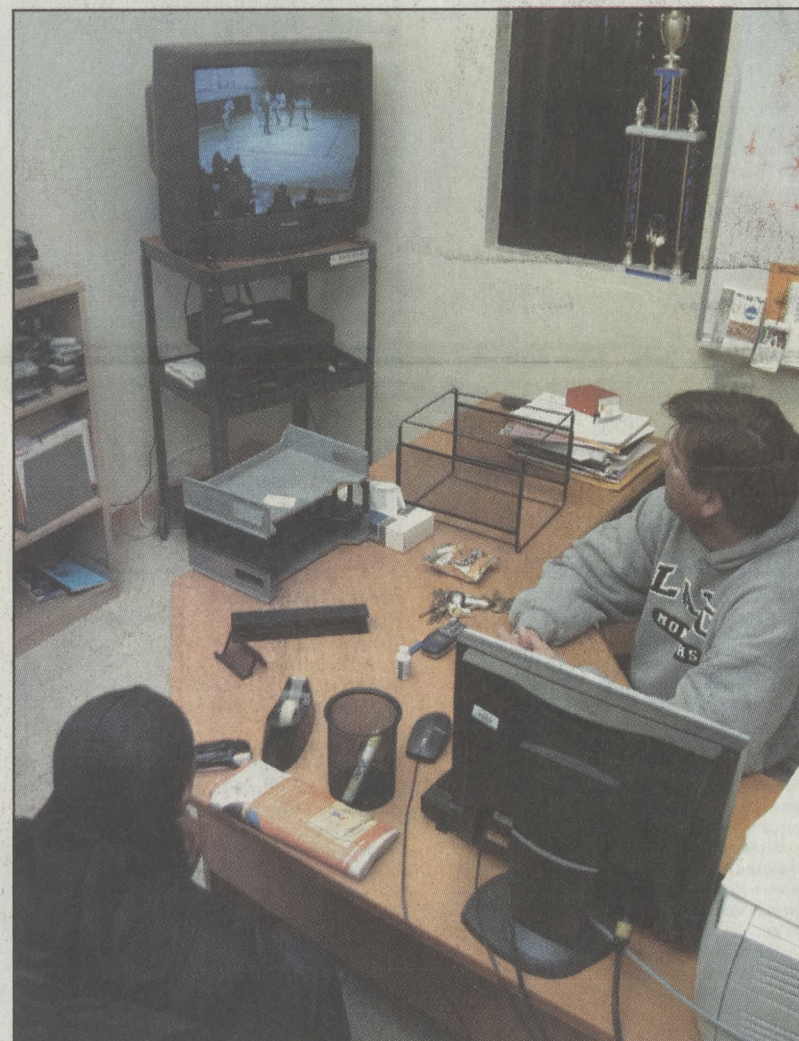
CONFERRING WITH THE ELDER - Monarch guard Syretta Coleman, right, values good advice and takes time during each practice session to seek wisdom from head coach Mike Muro.

From her birth on a basketball court to her glory days in a Chandler, Ariz. high school, sophomore Monarch guard Syretta Coleman has proved time and time again that she will move forward with whatever she's doing without letting anybody get in her way.

A respected figure in California college basketball, this 21-year-old Indianola, Miss. native has achieved a certain admiration among some opponents, and fear from others. Coleman helped her team reach the California State Championship Tournament at the University of San Diego in 2003 and was named Western State Conference Player of the Week this season four times.

Her stats prove it all. She's on the top-five lists for free throw percentage, steals, and scoring.

Top universities like Gonzaga and University of South Carolina want her, but only one will be so lucky. Which one? That's for her to decide.



TALE OF THE TAPE - Coach Mike Muro, right, and Syretta Coleman view tape of a previous game in the finals days of the 2004 season.



NO PAIN ... NO PAIN - Assistant coach Ruth Seja, right, massages the cramped leg of guard Syretta Coleman at Santa Monica College during the season finale Feb. 20.



IN THE THICK - Despite the pain, Coleman returned to the game in the final minutes in an attempt to rally her team from 10-point deficit.